SAMPLE 'BALUT'

Alan Peter Cayetano, Taguig-Pateros congressman, is hatching a plan to distribute boiled duck embryo in his Senate campaign. Chinese traders who introduced this specialty settled in what's now known as Pateros, for 'pato' (duck) and 'sapatero' (shoemaker).

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

What happens when you can't pay your credit card bill? Some words of caution from 2 credit card gurus plus 6 ways to clean up plastic debt

JOB *Market*

Overseas

Jobs Available

LIFESTYLE *at* HOME / E3

Lifestyle at home: Jewelry designer's refurbished abode celebrates the Oriental spirit

E[illegible]AINMENT / H1

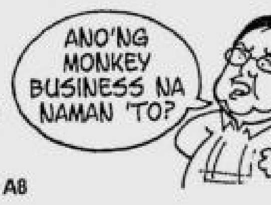
Inquirer man in Hollywood meets Christina Ricci: Wild, sexy, terrific as a nympho in a new film

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, March 4, 2007 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 86 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Mike A co-starring in Cayetano's TV plug

By Volt Contreras

"THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!" SAYS A PEEVED FIRST GENTLEMAN Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, cueing the start of a 30-second political TV ad.


ANO'NG MONKEY BUSINESS NA NAMAN 'TO?

MIKE A/ A8

US traders bullish on RP, to invest $3B

AmCham says figure could go up to $9B if ...

By Michael Lim Ubac

INDICATING INTERNATIONAL investors' renewed confidence in the Philippines, the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines has said that investors from the United States would be putting in this year up to $3 billion worth of investments in the country's infrastructure, manufacturing and information technology sectors.

Robert Sears, the AmCham executive director, made this announcement at a roundtable discussion with President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday on the improved fiscal situation and business optimism in the country.

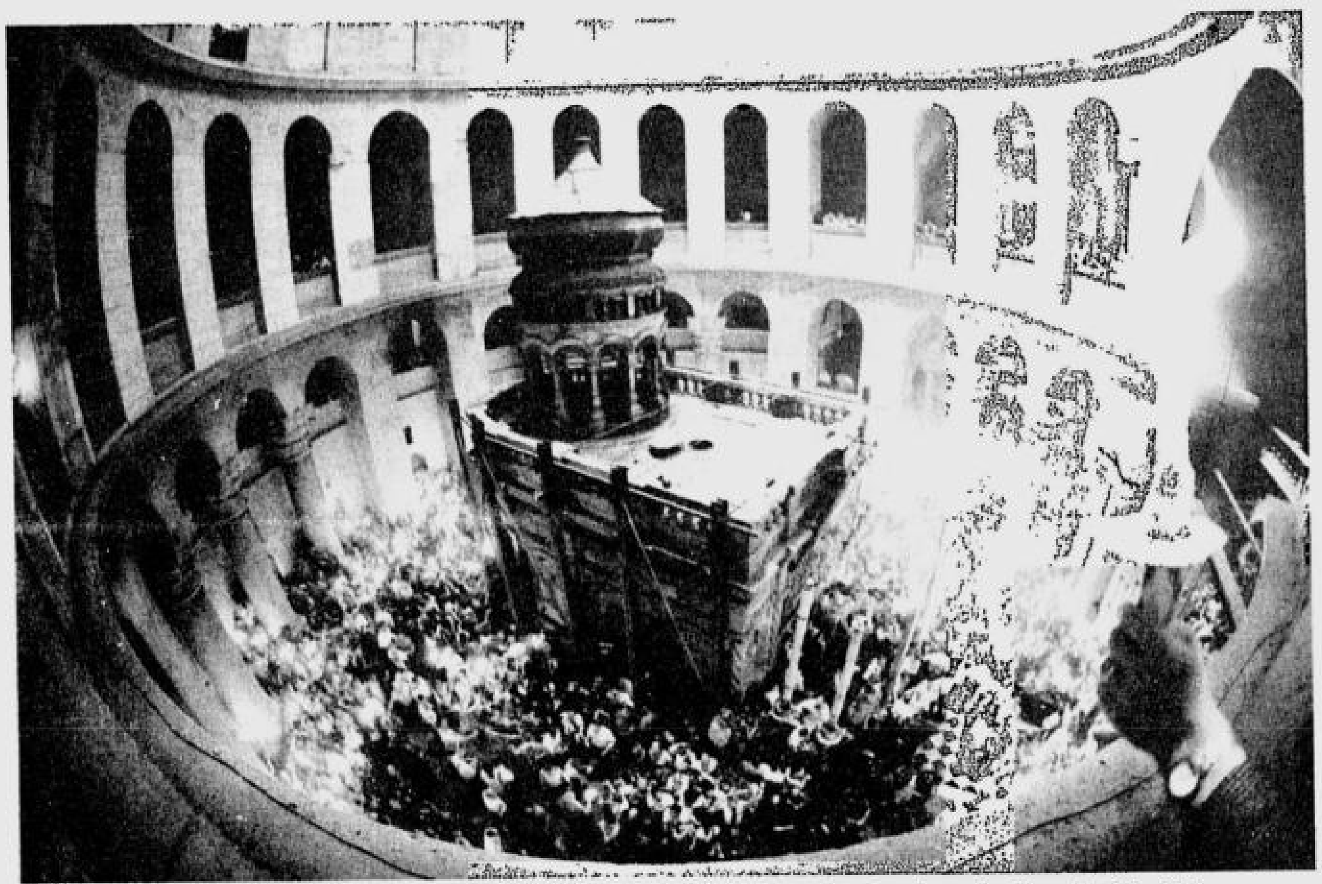
Sears said the "optimistic" assessment of AmCham members was that the figure could "potentially go up to $9 billion in a year" if the government would "take care of some red tape issues."

"I think the confidence level this year is higher than at the same time last year," he said.

Sears said US businessmen and other foreign investors in the country were not too concerned about the results of the midterm elections in May.

"Business can't wait ... [They] are proceeding as if there were no elections because they're here ...," he said.

US TRADERS/ A8



JESUS' BURIAL SITE: The faithful traditionally believe Jesus was buried at the site where the Church of the Holy Sepulcher now stands in Jerusalem. In the Bible account, Jesus was taken down from the cross by his family and friends led by Joseph of Arimathea and laid in a tomb where He was for three days before He rose from the dead. AP

'THE LOST TOMB OF JESUS'

No reason to rewrite Christianity

By Randolf C. Flores, SVD

(Editor's note: The author is a Bible and Hebrew Language professor at the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay City.)

HIS DISCIPLES MAY GO AND STEAL him away. (Matthew 27:64)

This was what the chief priests and the Pharisees suspected would happen after Jesus' death so they went to Pontius Pilate the day after with a request that a guard be stationed at Jesus' tomb.

In that culture, like ours, where deception, lying, hypocrisy and secrecy are social strategies, the missing corpse would prove that Jesus had risen from the dead. In the Bible, Jesus was in the tomb for three days before his resurrection.

Does the above passage (Matthew 27:64) allude that Jesus' body was transferred, if not stolen, to another tomb?

The feature documentary, "The Lost Tomb of Jesus," premiering today on the Discovery Channel, is an intriguing attempt to shed light on this question.

The executive producer of the documentary is James Cameron of "Titanic" fame and the director is Emmy-award winning documentarian, Simcha Jacobovici.

NO REASON/ A8

2 party spokesmen speak out

ACE DURANO: At 36, he calls himself a "spokesboy;" concedes to Tamano in the good looks department but believes the opponent is hitting Team Unity below the belt.

'Mr. Cool Guy' has ace up his sleeve

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IT LOOKS LIKE THE MAY ELECTIONS will not be just a bruising battle for the Senate between Team Unity and the Genuine Opposition but also a silent contest between the two good-looking campaign spokespersons deployed by each camp.

And Team Unity's Joseph "Ace" Hotchkiss Durano knows he's being compared to GO's Adel Tamano—like himself an Ateneo law graduate—in more ways than one.

"People ask who is more handsome, so I say I have already conceded that Adel is the 'crush *ng bayan*' and I am just the 'crush *ng bahay*.' I'll be content if only my wife has a crush on me," the

MR. COOL GUY/ A6

ADEL TAMANO: With a resume that can upstage that of many candidates for the Senate, he's the first Filipino Muslim with a master's degree in Law from Harvard.

Driven pragmatist finds job a breeze

By Norman Bordadora

WHEN HIS SON, SAN JUAN MAYOR Joseph Victor Ejercito, bowed out of the Genuine Opposition's senatorial slate, deposed President Joseph Estrada named two "principled oppositionists" as possible replacements.

One was Sonia Roco, widow of the late senator and presidential candidate Raul Roco. The other was lawyer Adel Abbas Tamano, a relative unknown.

Sonia Roco is now part of the GO ticket. But Tamano did not bite.

"To run for a national post is one thing. Winning it is another," he told the INQUIRER.

Tamano was not playing coy. He admitted to being driven—a

DRIVEN/ A6

TEAM UNITY

Candidates for Senate in alphabetical order

Edgardo 'Ed' Angara

Born Sept. 24, 1934, Quezon; married. **Education:** University of Michigan, Master's in Law. **Occupation:** Lawyer; Senator, 1987-2007. **Advocacy:** Education, senior citizens

Joker Arroyo

Born Jan. 5, 1927, Camarines Sur; married. **Education:** UP Law. **Occupation:** Lawyer, Senator, 2001-2007. **Advocacy:** Human rights

Michael 'Tol' Defensor

Born June 30, 1969, Manila; married. **Education:** UP, Master's in Public Administration. **Occupation:** Presidential Chief of Staff, 2006-2007. **Advocacy:** Housing, handicapped.

Jamalul 'Kiram' Kiram

Born July 16, 1938, Sulu; married. **Education:** Manuel Luis Quezon University, Law. **Occupation:** Businessman; Presidential Consultant 2005-2007. **Advocacy:** Muslims, Mindanao dev't

Vicente 'Vic' Magsaysay

Born Jan. 20, 1940, Zambales; married. **Education:** Letran College, Commerce. **Occupation:** Zambales Governor. **Advocacy:** Local gov't, decentralization

Cesar 'Buboy' Montano

Born Aug. 1, 1962, Manila; married. **Education:** Lyceum University, Industrial Engineering. **Occupation:** Actor/director. **Advocacy:** Education, health, film industry

Teresa 'Tessie' Oreta

Born June 28, 1944, Manila; married. **Education:** Assumption, Literature & History. **Occupation:** Senator, 1998-2004. **Advocacy:** Women's & children's rights

Prospero 'Butch' Pichay Jr.

Born June 20, 1950, Surigao del Sur. **Education:** De La Salle, Commerce. **Occupation:** Rep. Surigao del Sur 1st dist. 1998-2007. **Advocacy:** Livelihood, education, youth, sports

Ralph 'Korecto' Recto

Born Jan. 11, 1964, Quezon City; married. **Education:** De La Salle, Business Administration. **Occupation:** Senator, 2001-2007. **Advocacy:** Economy, rural dev't

Luis 'Chavit' Singson

Born June 21, 1941, Ilocos Sur; married. **Education:** UST, Architecture. **Occupation:** Ilocos Sur Governor. **Advocacy:** Agriculture, local gov't

Vicente 'Tito' Sotto III

Born Aug. 24, 1948, Manila; married. **Education:** Colegio de San Juan de Letran, English. **Occupation:** TV host; Senator, 1992-2004. **Advocacy:** Illegal drugs

Juan Miguel 'Migz' Zubiri

Born April 13, 1969, Negros Occ.; married. **Education:** UP Los Baños, Agricultural Management. **Occupation:** Rep. Bukidnon 3rd dist. 1998-2007. **Advocacy:** Agriculture, rural dev't, biofuels

COMPILED BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

Agri dep't food depots bring markets to neighborhoods

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao
Business

FOR OVER 10 YEARS, VENDOR CRISANTA Barce had been going to the Pasig or Pasay public markets as early as 1 in the morning to get first crack at the fresh meat and vegetables just delivered from the provinces.

Coming any later would mean the 53-year-old mother of five from Barangay Signal, FTI Complex in Taguig City would be left with second and third-class meat and vegetables, which might be rejected by the canteens she delivers them to.

Since her over P2,000 worth of vegetables were too heavy for her to carry, she had to spend another P150 to P200 to hire a jeep from Pasay or Pasig to her home in Taguig, thus adding to her expenses.

Those days of hardship are finally gone, thanks to the opening of the Barangay Food Terminal (BFT) near her neighborhood at Barangay Signal on Feb. 14.

The Taguig BFT project of the Department of Agriculture and the Taguig local government directly links the suppliers to retailers and wholesalers like Barce, thus eliminating the middlemen.

This way, farmers and livestock raisers can sell their products at higher prices, while the retailers can get their products

AGRI/ A6

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The eastern section of the country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated light rainshowers.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/03/03/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

It's goodbye GO if Kiko is replaced, says Noynoy

By Volt Contreras and Dona Pazzibugan

THREE WEEKS INTO THE CAMPAIGN, COHESION still seems to elude the Genuine Opposition senatorial ticket.

One of its candidates yesterday floated the possibility of his leaving the coalition if party mate Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, a reluctant "guest candidate" whom GO elders later dropped from the 12-slot lineup, is replaced.

"I might also say goodbye if the agreement not to replace (Pangilinan) is not honored," said Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, who like Pangilinan belongs to the Liberal Party-Drilon wing.

Aquino's remarks came a day after Sen. Franklin Drilon, president of the LP faction, publicly reminded the GO leadership of a supposed agreement that the GO machinery will carry only 11 names despite Pangilinan's choice not to campaign with the pack.

"We (LP) went into the coalition with two representatives, I and Kiko," Aquino said in a phone interview. "I don't see myself campaigning for other candidates but not for my party mate."

Echoing Drilon's earlier position that replacing Pangilinan would result in a 13th slot, Aquino said he could not reasonably campaign for 13 candidates for that would mean "junking" one of them.

Aquino, however, qualified his statement at one point in the interview.

He said that, "so far I'm comfortable" with the pronouncements made by GO leaders, namely, campaign manager JV Ejercito, spokesperson Adel Tamano and Makati City Mayor Jejomar "Jojo" Binay, that they had not considered replacing Pangilinan with another candidate.

Others also opposed

For Aquino, Pangilinan has proven himself worthy of being with the political opposition "in substance" when he joined the critics of the Arroyo administration on various issues, like the controversial Executive Order 464, Proclamation 1017 and the calibrated preemptive response policy.

"But in terms of style, I think it's the prerogative of a candidate to choose how he wishes to conduct his campaign," Aquino said, apparently referring to Pangilinan's decision not to get on the GO bandwagon.

Other GO candidates also said they were against replacing Pangilinan since the issue might divert attention away from their own campaigns.

Reelectionist Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero said that if they had their way, they would not drop Pangilinan from the ticket.

Leave 12th slot open

Earlier, the two resented Pangilinan's refusal to join other GO candidates in sorties, including their proclamation rally on Feb. 24.

Taguig Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano said it would be better if GO did not get a replacement candidate.

Sonia Roco, widow of the late Sen. Raul Roco, said she preferred to leave the 12th slot open to avoid another controversy.

"I hope things could be settled as soon as possible, and I believe this will happen," Lacson told reporters in Filipino after GO's motorcade from Sto. Tomas town to Lipa City in Batangas.

Don't rock the boat

He said if it were up to him, he would not have dropped Pangilinan from the slate "because he was already adopted and we had already expressed our support."

"But now that he has been dropped, I hope they do not get a replacement anymore. It will only rock the boat," Lacson said.

"Eleven (candidates) will do. Things will only get complicated," he added.

Escudero said that while he respected the decision of GO's executive committee, he would personally continue to support Pangilinan.

Enough of controversies

Escudero said he was against adopting another candidate. "It's not the right time. *Saka mas maganda na onse. Kasi baka ma-onse pa kami, mabuti na kami naman ang mang onse,*" he said in a play on the Filipino word for "11" (onse), which means falling for a trick.

"As a member of GO, I am duty-bound to respect the decision. But personally when I go around I say vote for Kiko," he added.

"It will be best if GO will not replace him because ... attention might be diverted from campaign issues," said Cayetano.

Roco, who is running for public office for the first time, said she feared further controversy over a new adopted candidate would once more draw attention away from the rest of the candidates.

Roco and other GO candidates ex-senators John Osmeña and Nikki Coseteng showed up at a press conference in Lipa, along with a representative of former mutineer, ex-Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV, who is campaigning from military detention.

GO finally holds big rally but few bets come

By Dona Pazzibugan

LIPA CITY, BATANGAS—AFTER two consecutive failed rallies in Panay Island, the Genuine Opposition (GO) senatorial ticket pushed through with a big rally in this Southern Tagalog city yesterday.

However, only four candidates—John Osmeña, Sonia Roco, Nikki Coseteng and Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III—showed up. Panfilo Lacson sent his son while Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III was represented by his mother at the political rally organized by opposition gubernatorial candidate Ricky Recto in front of the city's Bay Mall.

The other GO candidates, Lacson, Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero and Taguig Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, took part in the motorcade but did not attend the press conference also arranged by Recto.

They instead went to the birthday party of Malaya newspaper publisher Jake Macasaet also in Batangas.

Evening rains initially dispersed the crowd of about 3,000 that filled up the rally grounds, but they returned when vice gubernatorial aspirant and multi-awarded actor Christopher de Leon arrived.

This city is led by Mayor Vilma Santos, wife of administration senatorial candidate Ralph Recto and a former acting partner of De Leon.

The Batangas rally pushed through in the wake of the cancelled rallies in Iloilo and Antique last week.

Recto, who is currently Batangas vice governor, said another rally would be held in Nasugbu town, capping a motorcade set for today.

Earlier in the day, GO introduced a new campaign tack—it held a "Talakayang Bayan" or public forum.

The first opposition "Talakayang Bayan," apparently its counterpart to the administration's town hall meetings, was held at the Lipa City public market, but only senatorial candidate Sonia Roco and Ricky Recto were around. The two candidates were backstopped by GO campaign manager JV Ejercito, former senator Ernesto Maceda and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

The rest of the candidates had either begged off after the preceding motorcade, or went to other engagements in the area.

Ejercito, under fire for failing to get the opposition campaign off to onto a strong start, said they did not want to be tied down to the "traditional" rallies where the candidates did all the talking before gathered crowds.

"It's a new approach," he said, as he made the surprise announcement of holding a public forum which drew a crowd at the public market.

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Hold it! Militants cry over coco deal

EVEN BEFORE THE deal could be closed, militant groups yesterday served notice they would block it at the Supreme Court.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and the Anakpawis party-list group said they would question before the high tribunal the coco levy compromise deal being ironed out by the government.

In a press statement, KMP deputy secretary general Willy Marbella said the deal would benefit only President Macapagal-Arroyo "and her cohorts."

"They are drooling over the P130-billion coco levy funds and now they even stole the idea of forming a trust fund from the Anakpawis bill in Congress," he said.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government said the other day it had reached an understanding with several stakeholder groups of the coconut levy fund on how to manage its stake in San Miguel Corp., Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage firm.

PCGG Chair Camilo L. Sabio said the government would organize the levy funds—now estimated at P130 billion—into a foundation where all the stakeholders will be represented. *Daxim L. Lucas*

Militants demand soldiers' pullout from metro

By Jerome Aning and Alcuin Papa

MILITANT GROUPS ARE AFRAID THE REported militarization of urban areas could soon spawn "death squads" that would target leftists as they called on the mayors of Manila, Quezon and Caloocan cities to demand that the national government order the recall of the soldiers deployed in their localities.

In a joint press statement, Anakpawis and Pamalakaya said Mayors Lito Atienza, Feliciano Belmonte and Enrico Echiverri should also explain why the military was operating in their cities and if it was true that they had allowed the deployment.

The groups said the presence of military personnel in the three vote-rich cities constituted "de facto martial law" that was creating "an atmosphere of terror" and violating election laws.

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano said that based on the experience in other parts of the country, militarization usually preceded extrajudicial killings.

"This is what they did in areas where extrajudicial killings occurred. We now fear that aside from uniformed soldiers, the AFP's death squads are also freely roaming and operating around Metro Manila," he said.

Militants believe the military is behind the unsolved killings of leftists and journalists that have drawn international condemnation.

The INQUIRER reported yesterday that Army soldiers have been regularly "prowling" around the crowded Barangay Commonwealth in Quezon City, and that they have been singling out militants.

The soldiers were also said to be urging residents not to vote for left-leaning party-list groups like Anakpawis and Bayan Muna and threatening urban poor residents if they vote or support these groups.

In a press conference at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday, Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, chief of the military's National Capital Region Command (NCRComm), explained that the presence of the soldiers was part of the military's civil military operations. The soldiers were not in combat mode, he said.

"It's part of a novel approach by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. We are trying to introduce lasting peace and development that is community-based rather than trying to impose peace through military force," Dolorfino said.

He said that by making their presence felt in urban communities, the military was "being proactive" in solving any future problems in the community and to prevent Philippine society from collapsing like a "house eaten by termites from the inside."

Dolorfino said the reports that the soldiers had been campaigning against party-list groups were being investigated.

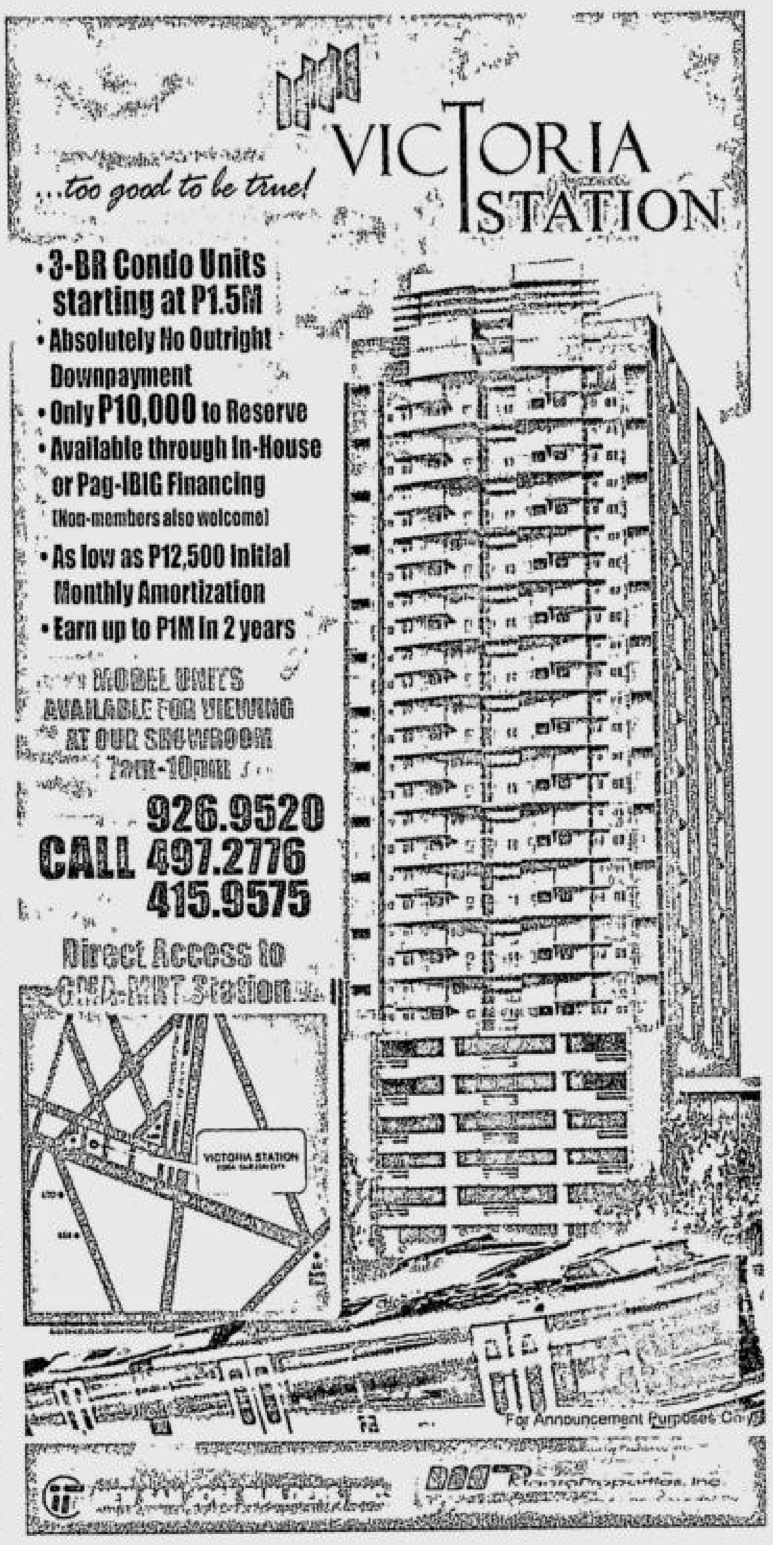
"This is first time that we heard these allegations," he said, adding that a memo would be sent to all units to immediately investigate.

Lt. Col. Ricardo Visaya, who heads the civil military operations (CMO) unit at the NCRComm, said the order of the military leadership was clear: "Don't get involved in partisan politics."

He also denied the soldiers had "targeted" militant groups. No one has been arrested, he said.

"They should not be afraid. There is no surveillance of party-list members," he said.

Visaya said 26 teams composed of 10 soldiers were disposed to "problematic communities" in Caloocan, Sta. Mesa, Pandacan, Tondo and Quezon City as early as November 2006. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*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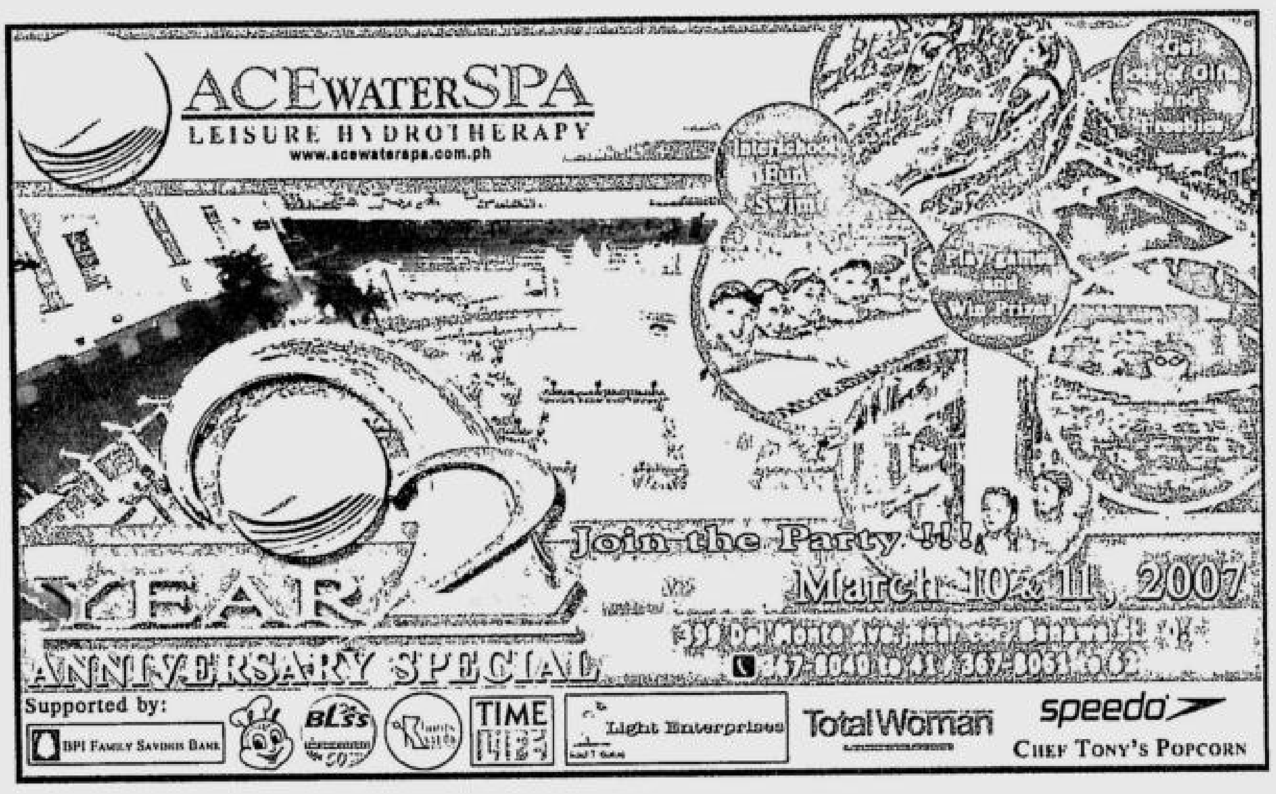
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, March 4, 2007
2nd Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: **Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18**

A covenant with Abraham.

Yahweh brought him outside and said to him, "Look up at the sky and count the stars if you can. Your descendants will be like that."

Abram believed Yahweh who, because of this, held him to be an upright man. And he said, "I am Yahweh who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession."

Then Abram asked, "My Lord, how am I to know that it shall be mine?" Yahweh replied, "Bring me a 3-year-old heifer, a 3-year-old goat, a 3-year-old ram, a turtle dove and a young pigeon." Abram brought all these animals, cut them in two, and laid each half facing its other half, but he did not cut the birds in half. The birds of prey came down upon them, but Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep came over Abram, and a dreadful darkness took hold of him.

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between the halves of the victims. On that day Yahweh made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this country from the river of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."

2nd Reading: **Philippians 3:17-4:1**

Our homeland in heaven.

Unite in imitating me, brothers and sisters, and look at those who walk in our way of life. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. I have said it to you many times, and now I repeat it with tears: they are heading for ruin; their belly is their god and they feel proud of what should be their shame. They only think of earthly things.

For us, our citizenship is in heaven, from where we await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. He will transfigure our lowly body, making it like his own body, radiant in Glory, through the power which is his to submit everything to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, you my glory and crown, be steadfast in the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

The transfiguration.

About eight days after Jesus had said all this, he took Peter, John and James and went up the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became dazzling white. Two men were talking with Jesus: Moses and Elijah. They had just appeared in heavenly glory and were telling him about his departure that had to take place in Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions had fallen asleep, but they awoke suddenly and saw Jesus' Glory and the two men standing with him. As Moses and Elijah were about to leave, Peter said to him, "Master, how good it is for us to be here for we can make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." For Peter didn't know what to say. And no sooner had he spoken than a cloud appeared and covered them; and the disciples were afraid as they entered the cloud. Then these words came from the cloud, "This is my Son, my Chosen one, listen to him." And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was there alone.

The disciples kept this to themselves at the time, telling no one of anything they had seen.

Commentary

Abram knows God in darkness, fire, birds of prey, and in the words of promise that he will be a people like the stars and that this land will be theirs, as God's gift. But as God's own Body, we know God much more intimately and personally. Abram obeys and does what God commands. We must obey and live as the citizens of heaven, not any nation on earth. We must not live as enemies of the cross of Christ—those set on things of the world: military, economic, and political power, selfishness, individuality, making it in their field, or living with greed, avarice, sloth, unfaithfulness. We must stand firm in Jesus.

Jesus shows us the God of light, the God of incarnation, God in his own flesh and body. As he prays, he is transfigured and we see God's glory shining through his very person—this is what we stake our lives on, and live in faith on. Jesus is seen as the new liberator and lawgiver, the new prophet. His mantle of justice is his own flesh and he will go to the cross and hand over his person and life. He invites us to come with him and to know both the burden of the cross and its glory in our lives. We are drawn into the Trinity and the Father tells us, "Listen to him!" And we must obey in the power of the Spirit. Who are we obeying and listening to this Lent?

Messages

Greetings!

The 2007 PCCP Annual Convention offers a couple of unique and innovative sessions to strengthen the involvement of PCCP members in the college's activities and to promote the values of the college among its members. These two sessions are the Medical Ethics session and the meeting of the Council Assemblies.

With the theme "Synergy and Integration in Chest Medicine", the convention also aims to emphasize the needed multidisciplinary approach to the management of pulmonary diseases for the better care and outcome of patients.

I anticipate all the attendees to have a soul-and-mind-enriching experience during this 4-day convention.

I congratulate and thank the organizing commities for putting up a well-balanced and very relevant scientific program.

RENATO B. DANTES, MD, FPCCP
President, Philippine College of Chest Physicians

The Philippine College of Chest Physicians is the premiere organization of lung specialists in the country that sets the standard of excellence for pulmonary health among Filipinos.

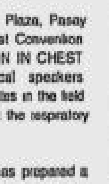
On March 6-9, 2007 at the Hotel Philippine Plaza, Pasay City, the college will hold its 26th Annual Chest Convention with the theme "SYNERGY AND INTEGRATION IN CHEST MEDICINE." Foreign as well as outstanding local speakers will serve as faculty to discuss issues and updates in the field of Pulmonology and other diseases that affect the respiratory system.

Our scientific chair, Dr Chad Carungin, has prepared a balanced program that will suite each one's interests and be updated on topics such as TB, asthma, COPD, CAP, HAP, OSA, lung tumors, alternative medicine, ventilators, smoking cessation, medical ethics, lung diseases affecting pregnant women, pre-operative clearance, effects of high altitude (EVEREST) ..oil spills.. volcanic eruptions.. and nutrition to the lungs.

To accommodate the busy schedule of our invited non-pulmonologists, a 1-day registration will be offered on March 9, 2007 wherein topics involving other subspecialties will be lumped together.

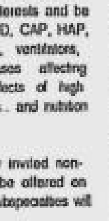
The convention won't be complete without the much awaited Fellowship Night which showcases the talents of the pulmonologists. This year's theme for the night is "DANCE FUSION" which will highlight the disco era with the songs coming from STUDIO 54, interpreted with modern movements by fellows from the different training institutions and chapter members.

This is the time to update our clinical know-how
the time to meet new and old friends
the time to unwind..the time to SYNERGIZE and INTEGRATE!!!



Sylvia Yang

SYLVIA BANAL-YANG, MD, FPCCP
Overall Chair, 26th Annual Chest Convention



MA. ENCARNITA BLANCO-LIMPIN, MD, FPCCP
Co-Chair, 26th Annual Chest Convention

SYNERGY AND INTEGRATION IN C… MEDICINE
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- Beratio, Lakan Florenio II U., MD
- Buenconcejo, Lyn S., MD
- Cal, Joseph Hope G., MD
- Cantillas, Nelson D., MD
- Cecilio, Roel B., MD
- Claveria, Angelica M., MD
- Dalluay, Melvin F., MD
- de Roxas, Ronald U., MD
- del Poso, William E., MD
- Dionaldo, Melanie C., MD
- Garcia, Gerard S., MD
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Cancellation of the Philippine Visit of UNFPA Executive Director and UN Undersecretary-General Thoraya Ahmed Obaid

Due to an emergency meeting at the United Nations Headquarters, Ms. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, UNFPA Executive Director and UN Under-Secretary-General, will be unable to visit the Philippines as scheduled.

Consequently, the following meetings and activities are cancelled:

- 3 March, 2-4 pm – Discussion with Civil Society Organizations, Non-Government Organizations, Governors and Mayors, and Legislators [UNFPA Office, RCBC Plaza, Makati City]
- 5 March, 12:30 to 2 pm – Luncheon Meeting with Donors [Renaissance Hotel, Makati City]
- 5 March, 2:15 to 2:45 pm – Meeting with Religious Leaders [Renaissance Hotel, Makati City]
- 5 March, 7 pm – Dinner Reception for Government and Civil Society Partners [Renaissance Hotel, Makati City]
- 6 March, 8-9 am – Breakfast Meeting with POPCOM Board [Renaissance Hotel, Makati City]
- 6 March, 9:30-10:30 am – Press / Media Conference [Renaissance Hotel, Makati City]

Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience caused and our profound gratitude for our partners' and stakeholders' continued support.

For Inquiries, Contact:

Ms. Cenona Bagaipo, *Personal Assistant to the Representative*
Telephone: (632) 9010300 / Fax: (632) 9010348
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower I, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Joma: Nothing wrong with having a little fun

By Alcuin Papa

WHAT'S WRONG WITH A LITTLE partying?

Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Ma. (Joma) Sison yesterday defended the posting on his website of pictures of him carousing with movie star Ara Mina last Christmas, saying it showed his closeness to the Filipino community in Europe.

The military had used the pictures to criticize the self-exiled Sison for "enjoying life while his supporters are rotting like hell."

"It was a Christmas party of the Filipino community in the Netherlands, not of the communist party so it was perfectly alright for me to have *kodakan* (picture-taking), *yugyugan* (dancing) and *kantahan* (singing) with the Filipino movie and singing stars Ara Mina, Janno Gibbs, as well as the migrant workers. It was the biggest festivity of the Filipino community in the Netherlands. I was invited as a special guest," Sison said in a statement published in his website www.josemariasison.org.

Sison, also chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, said he and other NDFP members headed by chair Luis Jalandoni and Philippine Embassy officials headed by Ambassador Romeo Arguelles were at the event "to mix with the Filipino community."

"There was nothing extravagant, nothing comparable to the wild parties thrown by the sybaritic officials of the Arroyo regime and its armed forces," Sison said. He added that his attendance at a Christmas party "does not change the frugality and austerity of my life."

Sison also blasted the military, which released the pictures to the media the other day, for saying that the New People's Army was "rotting."

"I think that the people should also visit everyday the website www.philippinerevolution.net to know the happy and creative political, economic, social and cultural life and the heroic and successful revolutionary struggles of the people and the revolutionary forces like the Communist Party of the Philippines, NPA, the NDFP, the mass organizations and organs of democratic power."

Sison said the armed forces should instead focus on "stopping extrajudicial killings and not deflect public attention from these by maligning my Christmas party pictures with Ara Mina."

"If they are truly concerned about the plight of the Filipino people, the reactionary Armed Forces should stop the extrajudicial killing, abduction and torture of so many people and the massive military operations, attacking the rural and urban communities in the Philippines and displacing hundreds of thousands of people from their homes and farms."

Sison also said the editor of his website posted his pictures with Ara Mina, Janno Gibbs and others at the party "to show my closeness to the Filipino community and the variety of my activities and to counter the attempt of the US imperialists and the Arroyo regime to demonize and isolate my person. The website editor is smart and has a good sense of humor in putting comic relief in the website."

Sison pointed out that his website also contained serious articles about the problems of the Filipino people and the world which is reeling from "US imperialism and brutal regimes like that of Arroyo."

Holy Spirit cites 14 'spirited women'

FOURTEEN GRADUATES OF THE COLLEGE OF the Holy Spirit were honored last month by the CHS Alumnae Foundation Inc. for exemplary achievements reflective of the institution's academic excellence and spiritual foundation.

The 2007 Alumnae of the Year awards were given out during the annual homecoming at the CHS campus on Mendiola, Manila. This year's theme was "Spirited Women."

The CHS was established almost a century ago.

The awardees were:

- Aurora Alfonso-Saulo (Chemistry, 1971), the only extension specialist in food technology in Hawaii. She was twice awarded a national grant by the US Department of Agriculture as the authorized organizational representative of the Hawaii Department of Health.
- Salvacion Munsayac-Bulatao (Commerce, magna cum laude, '71), who conceptualized and cofounded the Ibon Data Bank, established the Philippine Office of Economic Development Cooperative Society, and organized the Dairy Development Foundation of the Philippines.
- Maria Rita Borja-Bundalian (Fine Arts, magna cum laude, '86), freelance artist-designer, painter, cultural writer, art teacher, art events organizer and businesswoman.
- Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara (HS, '53), award-winning movie and TV director in the Philippines and abroad, and first Filipino woman to win a Famas Award. She helped pioneer the development of Philippine TV.
- Erlinda Raquel Santos-Sunico (HS, '61), CEO and president of Makati Skyline Inc., chair of Dyna Script Medical Transcription Inc., Triscope (Cinema Ads and Events Management) and Mr. Sun Inc.
- Leonida Laki-Vera (HS, '52), current Philippine ambassador to the Holy See and businesswoman involved in real estate, radio network and multimedia marketing.

She has received three Papal Awards.

- Felina Co-Young, Ph.D. (HS, '65; AB, '69), who has excelled in the fields of mathematics, statistics, management, marketing and human resource development and an accredited master trainer in international business management here and abroad.
- Juanita Salvador Burris, Ph.D. (HS, '57;BSC, '61), a founder of Chicago's Woodlawn Development Association, which is dedicated to community service. She was district director of the Child Development Curriculum, City Colleges of Chicago.
- Luzviminda Francisco-Sicat, MD (HS, '57), an independent radiology contractor for the Southern Nevada Veterans Healthcare System and university lecturer. She has authored papers published in various medical journals.
- Maria Teresa Rodriguez (Fine Arts, '72), holder of a master's degree in museology at the Syracuse University Graduate School in New York specializing in museum and gallery administration. She received a certificate of recognition from the Philippine Consul General, New York and a certificate of special congressional recognition from the US House of Representatives for outstanding service to the Philippine community in New Jersey.
- Erlinda T. Villanueva (HS, '46), the first woman partner at SGV and Co., lifetime member of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and management/financial consultant and current corporate secretary and trustee of the M. Velayo College of Accountancy Foundation. She served as chair and adviser of the National Committee for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (Philippines), and conceptualized "Aksyon Katoliko," which aims to restore religious instruction in public schools.
- Soledad Aquino-Hernando, Ph.D. (AB, '65; BSE, '66), a full professor at the Asian Institute of Management, holder of management and consultancy positions in international and national organizations, and author of two books and 23 research monographs, articles, manuals and other publications. She received awards from the Phi Kappa Phi International Society and Unicef-New York as international trainer and was one of Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines in 1966.
- Ida May Pauline F. Bagasao (HS, '67; BFS, '71), posthumous. Among her contributions to society were as team leader of emergency and program assistance to displaced persons and refugees in West Timor; social services coordinator/program officer with the UN High Commission for Refugees in Hong Kong, and overall project coordinator and consultant for the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

A special award of recognition was given to banker Mercedes Tan-Gotianun (HS, '46) for being instrumental in improving the lives of Filipino families through banking and real estate.

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Driven pragmatist finds job a breeze

From page A1

trait that he said he inherited from his mother, civic leader Zorayda Abbas. But then he is also the son of a pragmatist, Mamintal Tamano, one of the last senators elected before Ferdinand Marcos imposed martial law in 1972.

"It was actually my mom who pushed my dad to accept the draft when she learned that my father was being wooed by the Nacionalista Party to be one of its senatorial candidates," Tamano said. "My dad, just give him a good book and he'll survive."

Today, the 36-year-old Tamano is one of the most visible talking heads in the media as GO's campaign spokesperson.

"Perhaps this job will prepare me for whatever lies ahead for me in politics," he said.

Wooed by 2 camps

Both the administration and the opposition had wooed Tamano to be the Muslim candidate in their respective slates.

He was a legal analyst for ABS-CBN, especially during the failed impeachment of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He was also on the team of eminent lawyer Estelito Mendoza when the latter defended Estrada at the then President's impeachment trial in 2000.

"The administration was more aggressive, promising funding and logistics. But I was not yet ready," Tamano recalled.

"If I'm going to run, I want to make sure that I'm going to win. I didn't want to be the token Muslim candidate, and the opposition respected that," he said.

Tokenism

According to Tamano, the administration's selection of the Sultan of Sulu, Jamalul Kiram, as its Muslim candidate showed tokenism and a lack of respect for Filipino Muslims.

"I [once] went to Sulu and asked people there what they thought of Kiram. You know what, they didn't know him," Tamano said, adding:

"If you really care for the Muslims, you'd pick a candidate who has a chance to win. If there's none, you get one as early as two years before the election and develop him to [get him into the national consciousness]."

'Easiest job'

With a resume that can easily upstage that of many of the current crop of senatorial candidates, Tamano accepted the job of campaign spokesperson, which he described as a breeze.

"We have saleable candidates. The issues are in our favor. [Being spokesperson for the GO slate] is the easiest job in the world," he told the INQUIRER just after the campaign period started last month.

Weeks later, and after Sen. Francis Pangilinan was dropped from the ticket and GO rallies were getting canceled in Iloilo and Antique, he still thinks so.

"It's still the easiest job. We know the administration is trying to sabotage our campaign but at the end of the day, people will realize that the product we're selling is the best product," he said yesterday.

Family man

With his family background, superior education, good looks and lighthearted eloquence, Tamano could have himself mounted a decent run for a seat in the Senate.

He's a family man, married to lawyer Rowena Kapunan, and with two children aged four and one. (At one time, the INQUIRER called at 9 p.m. for a quick information fix and caught him giving an interview while trying to calm a crying child in the background.)

MA in law from Harvard

He has a master's degree in law from Harvard University and another in public administration from the University of the Philippines. He got his law degree at the Ateneo Law School.

"I am the first Filipino Muslim to take up a master's at the Harvard Law School," Tamano said, but quickly added that he did not mean to brag.

He teaches constitutional law and legal writing at the Ateneo and Far Eastern University.

Teaching helps him connect and empathize with almost all sorts of people, he said.

As does growing up the son of a senator whose friends included some of the most brilliant legal minds in the country, but who also found himself jobless when martial law was declared.

Good name

"Before my dad died, he told me that he did not have much to leave me but a good name," Tamano said.

"Jokingly, I said cash would be just fine. Now that I'm all grown up, I realize the value of that good name," he said.

Tamano said that even during the times when they were comfortable, his father would make him take public transportation to school.

"We were taught the value of money," he said.

But being a commuter did not give Tamano cause to be intimidated by the "high and mighty."

"Growing up, I had the opportunity to meet people like Marcos and [the late Senators Lorenzo] Tañada and [Jose] Diokno," he said. "They'd come over to visit my dad. So when I grew up and talked to them, I was not star-struck anymore."

Tamano sees this as an advantage now that he's the spokesperson of a coalition against the Arroyo administration, and good training for when he decides to make a run for the Senate.

He pointed out that Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago also went to Harvard, "but it was just for a short course."

Edge in academics

"I went there for a master's degree and on a scholarship from Harvard itself," he said.

"They may have the edge in experience, but I think I have the edge academically. I think I'll do well when I get to debate with the likes of Miriam," he added.

With his present job of articulating other people's thoughts and defending GO candidates when the occasion calls for it, Tamano may be well-honed for the challenge of debating the sharp, tart-tongued Santiago.

'Mr. Cool Guy' has ace up his sleeve

From page A1

soft-spoken tourism secretary said, laughing.

His wife is Carmi Luzuriaga, with whom he has a son (AJ, 13 years old) and a daughter (Cara, 12).

Durano said Tamano's appointment was good news to him: "I felt relieved that the other side picked a decent spokesperson. Adel is a good guy."

Told that Tamano appeared to be more on the offensive, he said the man was "probably following the strategy of the opposition."

If he's sufficiently humble to concede to Tamano in the looks category, Durano is flattered when people marvel at his youth. At 36, he is the youngest member of the Arroyo Cabinet.

"Are you the [campaign] spokesman? You're too young," he recalled people asking him. "But they ask it in a flattering way."

He said he had even taken to calling himself the "spokesboy."

Durano said he was surprised when President Macapagal-Arroyo offered him the job: "They need a spokesperson. Are you willing to take on the responsibility?"

Like a good soldier, he accepted with question.

Patience is a virtue

According to Durano, patience is a virtue that can probably distinguish him from the competition.

He tries to be "Mr. Cool Guy" in keeping with his real persona and his job description.

"You know, in politics anything goes, so you have to have patience and tolerance. Right now, it's like a boxing bout. We are fighting clean but our opponent is hitting us below the belt, so we just have to be patient and tolerant," Durano said.

He said the opposition had been harping on "rehashed issues," such as the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal and the illegal numbers game "jueteng."

"The opposition is saying the economic gains of the Arroyo administration are mere statistics, but the people know better," he said.

Durano said his job was to bring about a "high-level" campaign by focusing the debate on Team Unity's platform of government and avoiding mudslinging and muckraking.

"I know my responsibility is to advocate the platform of government of the administration ticket. I try not to be distracted and derailed," Durano said.

Team Unity's candidates are individually responsible for answering specific allegations against them, he said.

And he may have an ace up his sleeve—his being part of the Arroyo Cabinet the past three years.

"I'm supposed to be the most accessible guy to talk about our platform of government. I'm the guy you [in the media] can call at 6 a.m.," he said.

Silent majority

Durano said the Arroyo administration's "track record of performance and success" was a "value added" to Team Unity.

He cited a survey conducted by the administration showing that 60 percent comprised the "silent majority" that was not taking sides in the coming elections. He said 20 percent identified themselves as pro-administration, and another 20 percent as pro-opposition.

"It shows that the silent majority is not interested in mudslinging but in moving this country forward. So we are focusing on that," he said.

Durano rejected the opposition's claim that Ms Arroyo was a liability for Team Unity candidates. "We don't see that. For me, that is a myth. In the provinces, the response of the people is the opposite [of what the opposition has been saying]," he said.

He also said Ms Arroyo had maintained a solid network of support in the provinces that would boost Team Unity's aim of clinching a 12-0 victory.

No greenhorn

It is Durano's first time to handle a political campaign, but he's not exactly a political greenhorn.

He was the representative of the fifth district of vote-rich Cebu for three terms until 2004, when he cut his last term to serve in the Cabinet.

His father, Ramon Durano III, served for three terms as Cebu congressman and is now on his second term as mayor of Danao City.

In 2004, when he was waging his own battle for a third term in the House, Durano helped campaign for President Arroyo in his province and other parts of the Visayas, which delivered a huge margin over her closest rival, the late actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Durano completed his early schooling in Cebu City and obtained a bachelor of arts degree in Asian studies at the University of the Redlands in California.

He returned to the Philippines to study law at the Ateneo de Manila, where he also obtained a master's degree in business administration. He became a member of the bar in 1998.

Youngest

After graduating from the Ateneo, Durano embarked on a political career, becoming the youngest member of the 11th Congress. He went on to win a second three-year term in 2001 and a final term in 2004.

In the 12th Congress, Durano chaired three House committees—public order and security, public works, and dangerous drugs.

He was a member of the group of young congressmen called the "Spice Boys," together with Michael Defensor and Miguel Zubiri (now both Team Unity candidates).

Also during that time, he was named secretary general of the Nationalist People's Coalition, the party founded by business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

He is also an honorary member of Class 1979 of the Philippine Military Academy and a reserve lieutenant colonel in the Air Force.

More tourists

The President appointed Durano tourism secretary in August 2004; he was confirmed by the Commission on Appointments four months later.

Durano takes pride in his accomplishments in the three years that he has held the tourism portfolio.

"From a declining industry in 2004, we managed a 14.5 percent growth in tourist arrivals in 2005. This means we are outpacing the inbound [tourist arrival rate] of 7 percent in the Asia-Pacific and we are getting a big slice of the tourism pie [in the region]."

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Application Requirements:

1. College Transcript of Scholastic Records. However, if the applicant is graduating on March 2007, an official copy of temporary transcript containing college records from first year up to the first semester of the fourth year should be submitted instead;

2. Two (2) 2½" x 2½" colored ID pictures;

3. Two (2) Certificates of Good Moral Character with school seal:
a. For UST graduates, one of the certificates should come from the Office for the Student Affairs (OSA) and one from the Dean of the previous college;
b. For non-UST graduates, one from the Guidance office or its equivalent and one from the Dean of previous college;
c. Applicants who are working must submit an additional Certificate of Good Moral Character issued by the current employer.

4. Application and Testing fee; and

5. Duly accomplished application forms. The forms will be issued by the Dean's office only upon submission of ALL THE REQUIREMENTS.

Note: ALL requirements must be submitted one (1) week before the examination day

Application Schedule: Monday to Friday
9:00 am-12:00 nn; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Examination Schedules: 8:00 am- 12:00 nn:
March 16, 2007, April 13, 2007 and May 4, 2007

Venue of Examination: Reading Room, Faculty of Civil Law, Ground Floor,
UST Main Building.

FOR INQUIRIES: VISIT THE DEAN'S OFFICE OR LOG ON TO OUR WEBSITE at www.ust.edu.ph, click on Academics or call 731-4027 or 4061611 local 8225.

Agri dep't food depots bring ...

From page A1

fresh and straight from the source at prices lower than in other markets.

At the BFT, for instance, carrots are sold at P35 a kilo, compared to P40 in other markets. Cauliflower goes for P30 against P45; ampalaya for P45 compared to P55 outside the BFT, and onions are at P40 compared to P50 in other places.

Beef is sold at P190 a kilo but P200 elsewhere, chicken for P15 less at P95, and *tilapia* at P75 as against P85 outside the BFT.

Taguig is the fourth BFT to start operations, following Batasan Hills, Quezon City (December 2005); Baseco in Manila (November 2006), and Pansol in Quezon City, which also started in February, like Taguig.

The 465-strong Luntian Multipurpose Cooperative of Tiaong, Quezon, is one of many suppliers benefiting from the BFT project conceptualized in 2005 by Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

Luntian chair Dennis Tumbaga told the INQUIRER that before the BFT came to be, the backyard livestock raisers sold their hogs live to traders for only P75 a kilo.

But with the assured market provided by the barangay food depots, Tumbaga said the association decided to sell their products themselves directly to the market, which means they can now sell their meat to the BFT at P105 a kilo.

Expanded production

The BFT then turns around and sells the meat at P120 a kilo, giving wholesalers and retailers a comfortable P20 margin because pork sells at around P140 in other markets.

The BFT's income is used to finance its operations.

But more than the increased income, Tumbaga said the Luntian members were more excited at the prospect of an assured market because this meant that they could safely expand their production.

"With the BFT we are now counting our earnings, whereas before, all that we counted were our losses," Tumbaga said in Filipino.

Luntian delivers about 500 kilos of pork every week, equivalent to eight hogs weighing about 65 kilos each.

Partly taking care of the vegetable requirements of the BFT is the Rural Improvement Club-Balikatan of Western Bicutan, Taguig, which grows organic vegetables on a 1,500-square-meter property as part of the municipal government's urban agriculture program.

Below-market prices

RIC president Conchita A. Tumbali said the 25 member-families of the RIC used to sell their vegetables from house to house around Centennial Village just to recoup their investments.

Tumbali said that with the BFT, RIC now has a regular outlet for its harvest of 17 kilos of organic lettuce, mustard leaves, cabbage and pechay. These are also sold at below-market prices because suppliers deliver their products themselves.

The lower prices at the BFT proved irresistible to the residents of Barangay Signal and those from nearby areas.

The Barangay Signal BFT has been in operation for less than a month, but the terminal, which is open seven days a week from 5 in the morning up to 7 in the evening, is already generating sales of a low of P15,000 on weekdays and over P20,000 on weekends.

The sales are generated on a 100-square-meter property that boasts a P500,000 cold storage facility, which is the agriculture department's counterpart in the BFT project, along with technical and logistics support.

The Taguig municipal government took care of providing the site and bankrolling the construction of the facility.

More BFTs planned

BFT finance officer Marilyn Sunga says that because of the brisk sales, the BFT is able to provide allowances to nine employees doing the selling, cutting and storage of the meat and vegetable products.

"We hope that we can sustain this for the long term because we are now able to provide our customers with high-quality products at low prices and people here really need that," Sunga said.

The agriculture department plans to expand the BFT network to include Navotas, Western Bicutan in Taguig, Tuktukan in Taguig, Camarin (Caloocan), Addition Hills (Mandaluyong), Bignay (Valenzuela), Smokey Mountain (Manila), Sta. Mesa (Manila) and Pasay.

Market vendor Perla Belen is one of many who hope that the BFT, with its friendly prices, will be in operation for a long time.

The 50-year-old Belen said that because the BFT was so close to her home, she could get as many vegetables as she can in the morning with no capital, sell them during the day, and go back to the terminal to pay for what she got in the morning.

Belen said this arrangement allowed her to sell more because she was no longer restricted by her meager capital.

She also saves on the cost of taking two rides to either the Pasig or Pasay public markets, not to mention the physical cost of lugging around 15 kilos of vegetables a trip.

"Now, I can just walk," she said with a smile.

Mayor hits FVR 'meddling' in Tagaytay City politics

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

TROUBLE BETWEEN THE RULING Lakas-CMD and President Macapagal-Arroyo's original party Kampi is brewing in Tagaytay City, with the incumbent mayor protesting the intervention of former President Fidel Ramos in the selection of the administration's mayoralty candidate.

Mayor Abraham Tolentino said that while he was an original member of Lakas, Ramos had forced the selection of Jocelyn Ricardo, a defeated councilor in 2004, as the administration's candidate. Tolentino, who is seeking his second term as mayor, has transferred to Kampi.

"We don't have the equity of the incumbent here. It's the equity of the former President," Tolentino told the INQUIRER.

He said he would ask Ms Arroyo to enforce the equity of the incumbent—the principle that favors sitting officials in the contest for endorsement as administration candidates.

"We will not abandon the President," Tolentino said, adding that he had always been an ally of Ms Arroyo's and that among the localities in Cavite, only Tagaytay and Bacoor had delivered victories to her.

According to Tolentino, Ramos threw him out of Lakas because of the latter's "personal grudge" against him and his elder brother Francis, a former mayor of Tagaytay.

"We respect him as a former President," Tolentino said. "He has a high stature not only here but also abroad, so he should not be meddling in local politics."

Tolentino also said Ramos had put up his own Lakas ticket. The mayor has his Kampi ticket composed of himself, his running mate and 10 councilors.

Gabriel Claudio, Ms Arroyo's political adviser and chair of the arbitration committee dealing with the jockeying for administration endorsements, confirmed that trouble was afoot in Tagaytay politics.

"There is a situation there. It's a little tricky," Claudio said in Malacañang. He said he hoped the problem could be ironed out next week.

He also said that as a former president and founder of Lakas, Ramos had "tremendous say" on which candidates to field.

CAMPAIGNING IN ABSENTIA BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

A gigantic picture of jailed independent senatorial candidate Gregorio Honasan stands in his stead at the launch of his Mindanao campaign at Davao City's Rizal Park on Friday. Another military man, Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes, who is also detained on coup charges, is running for senator under the GO ticket.

Firm claims lawful ownership of mines

PUERTO PRINCESA—THE PLATINUM GROUP Metals Corp. (PGMC) yesterday said it was the lawful operator of two mining sites in Palawan.

"Citinickel is not the beneficial owner of the mine sites. Its attempt to oust PGMC via a unilateral agreement with Olympic Mines and Development Corp. is illegal and fraudulent, according to the decision of Malacañang," said Ramon Atayde, PGMC chair.

Atayde invoked the separate decisions of two lower courts in Palawan and Parañaque City, Palawan's provincial mining regulatory board and Malacañang's order to resume operations as well as the rehabilitation and implementation of various agricultural and livelihood programs for the local folk.

PGMC operates two mines in the towns of Narra and Española in southern Palawan.

In an earlier INQUIRER report, Citinickel had claimed to be the beneficial owner of the mine sites being operated by PGMC.

In April 2006, Olympic sought to end its operating agreement with PGMC.

Olympic then assigned its interest in the mine sites to Citinickel Mines and Development Corp. then tried to oust PGMC from the mining sites.

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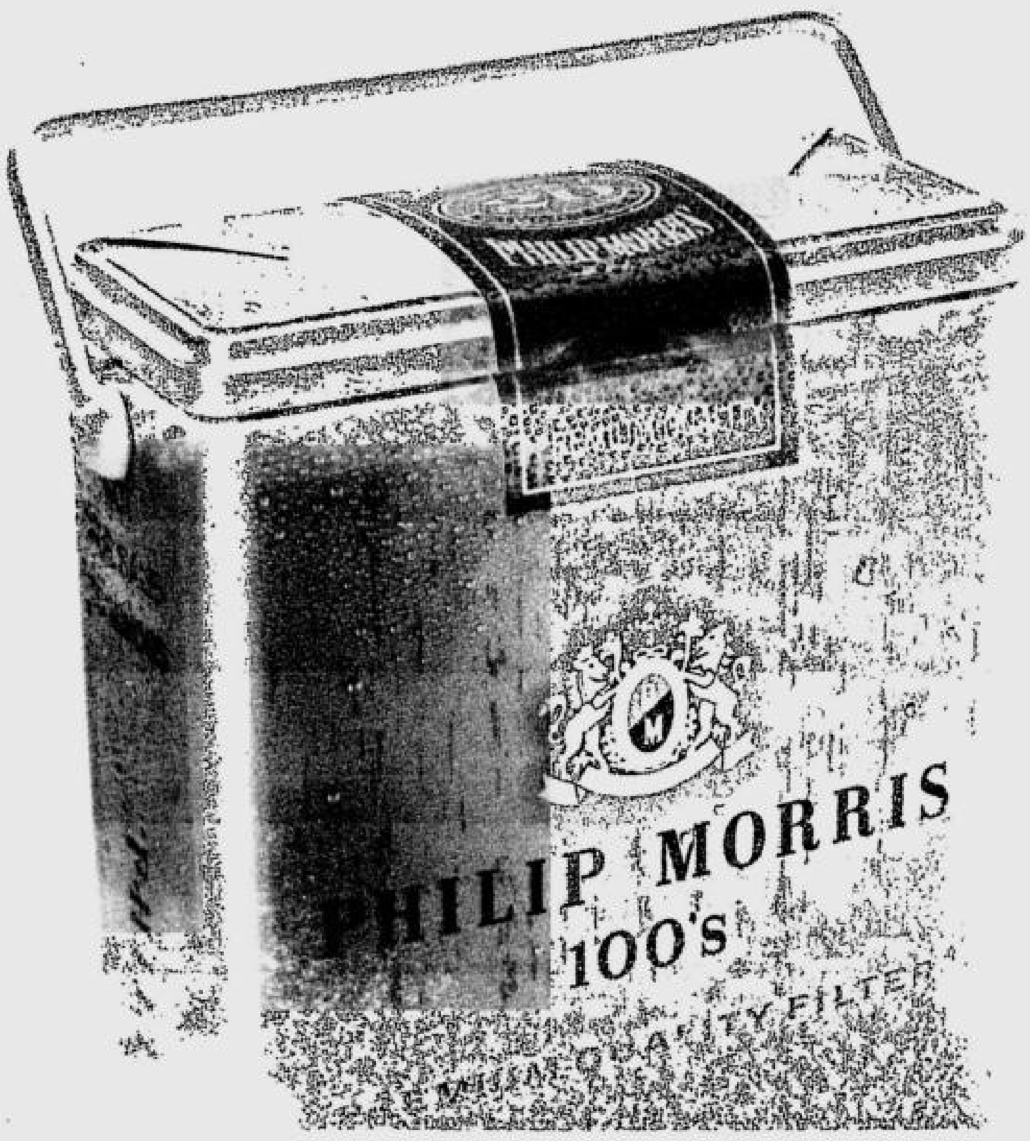

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GMA's new mantra: 8 by '08 or 8 blessings in '08

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has a new mantra, "8 by '08," that is, eight blessings by 2008.

The President spelled out her policy agenda for the year in a speech at the awarding ceremonies for the 10 "most inspiring tourism entrepreneurs" at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City yesterday.

The eight items in the agenda are: Jobs creation, cost of living improvement, a strong peso, increasing investments, pro-poor education, health care/housing/ending hunger, a green Philippines and a strong antiterror campaign.

"Our goal this year is to invest in our people so that we can achieve eight blessings in 2008," Ms Arroyo said.

Mindful of why she was at the Mall of Asia, she threw in the goal of attracting more than three million tourists this year to generate more jobs around the country.

The President said tourism growth was vital to the country's economic progress because one tourist arrival generates one job for the country.

She said the country was able to attract three million tourists last year, "this year we want to have more than three million."

She said many tourists wanted to come to the Philippines but the country did not have enough hotel rooms to accommodate them.

She said she had suggested to investors in Bohol that they put up bed and breakfast [inns].

The President called for more local investments in tourism, saying entrepreneurs could avail of a P10 million micro-financing facility from the Department of Tourism and the Philippine Tourism Authority.

She said a strong campaign against terror was also needed to provide a better climate for tourism and investments.

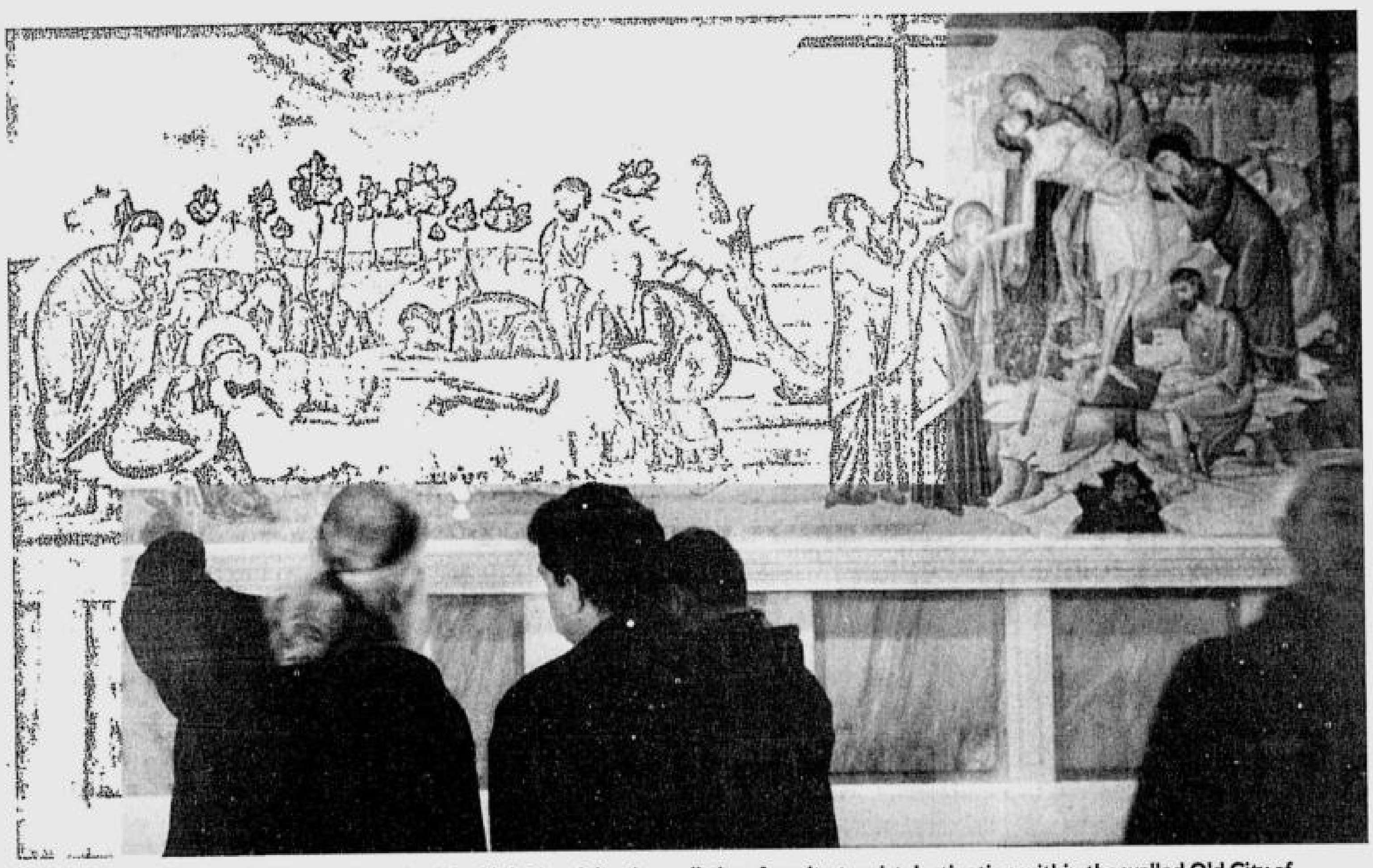
"We should have a strong antiterror campaign so that there will be more visitors in the beaches of Patikul [Sulu]," Ms Arroyo said.

The Senate and the House ratified the Human Security Act, or the antiterror law, during a two-day special session that the President called last month.

Ms Arroyo said she will sign the new law in a "proper ceremony" befitting the landmark legislation she had pushed Congress into approving amid the global terror threats.

However, she said Congress had specified that the law may take effect only after the elections in May.

Those opposed to the law fear that the government would use it to suppress or harass the legitimate opposition.



SITE OF THE CRUCIFIXION: The Church of the Holy Sepulcher is an all-time favorite tourist destination within the walled Old City of Jerusalem. Now, archaeologists and clergymen in the Holy Land deride claims in a new documentary, "The Lost Tomb of Jesus" to be aired today by Discovery Channel that contradicts major Christian tenets including the resurrection and ascencion of Jesus Christ. AP

No reason to rewrite Christianity

From page A1

The title of the just released book of Jacobovici, which he co-authored with Charles Pellegrino, sums up the gist of the feature—"The Jesus Family Tomb: The Discovery, the Investigation, and the Evidence That Could Change History (HarperCollins, 2007)."

In the documentary, a tomb was found to contain 10 ossuaries (small caskets used to store bones). Six had inscriptions on them, namely, Jesus, Mary, Matthew, Joseph, Mary Magdalene and Judah.

According to the Discovery website (www.discovery.com/tomb), it is part archaeological adventure, part Biblical history, part forensic science and part theological controversy.

It narrates the circumstances of the discovery, the process of interpreting the inscriptions involving respected New Testament scholars and the use of DNA testing leading to the univocal assertion that the tomb "belonged to the family of Jesus of Nazareth."

CBCP reacts

The Catholic hierarchy, through the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, issued an immediate reaction through the media: "It's not true."

The CBCP argued that "Jesus" was a common name in the 1st century AD and it was coincidental that this name was inscribed on one of the ossuaries.

But that was precisely what Jacobovici disproved. For the documentary, he sought the help of a respected statistician who did a study of the probabilities leading to the conclusion that the odds are at least 600 to 1 in favor of the tomb being the family tomb of Jesus. The ratio is reduced dramatically if one runs the name "Jesus, son of Joseph," a combination name in one of the inscriptions.

The bone of contention is actually the bone-boxes or ossuaries found in 1980 in a tomb in Talpiot, a neighborhood southeast of Jerusalem.

The 10 ossuaries reveal inscriptions written in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and Latin and interpreted by Jacobovici as the names of Jesus and his alleged "family" including Mary Magdalene as his wife and a certain Judah as his son. That Jesus had a wife and even a son is certainly an over-interpretation of the inscriptions disregarding the critical reading of history.

However, the Aramaic inscription "Jesus, son of Joseph" is something that New Testament scholars should reckon with.

According to the Discovery website, no less than the Harvard scholar Frank Moore Cross, a name in biblical studies and biblical archeology, did an epigraphic study of the said inscription. He assessed that the lettering reads, "Jesus, son of Joseph" and dates back to the Herodian Period (from around 1 BC to 1 AD). If we accept statistics and epigraphic evidence, we have here a plausible Jesus' ossuary.

Significance

What are the implications of this?

Jesus underwent a secondary burial. His bones were placed in an ossuary, to be buried possibly near his family. And thus we are faced with a theological problem—that there was no resurrection, or if there was, it was simply a spiritual resurrection "in which the husk of the body is left behind," as James Tabor, controversial New Testament scholar and consultant on the film, said in an interview.

What the theologians have to say on this would be interesting to know. But let me just pinpoint some loopholes in the claims of the documentary.

First, the title "Jesus, son of Joseph" was never a title used by the early followers of Jesus. It was used later and by outsiders (see Luke 3:23; John 1:45 and 6:42). It's difficult to understand why such a rare title was inscribed on a Jesus' ossuary.

Second, it was next to impossible to transfer the body of Jesus if we consider the biblical account of his burial: The tomb had a large stone rolled on it, was sealed and was guarded (Matthew 27:60-66). The women discovered an empty tomb in the first hours of the Sabbath (Mark 16:2; Matthew 28:1). If there was an attempt to move the body, it would not have been during the Sabbath, a serious violation of the Sabbath prescription.

Honoring the dead

Third, sometime during 50 BC to 50 AD, the Roman emperor issued an edict, Diategma Kaisaros (Caesar's Edict) that sepulchers and graves should remain unmolested in perpetuity as a way of honoring the dead. The edict also warned of serious punishment for violators.

Fourth, Eusebius, a Church historian in 4th century AD, wrote that the tomb of James, the "brother" of Jesus, became a pilgrimage spot in Jerusalem for many Christians. If this was part of the family tomb of Jesus in Talpiot, Christian pilgrims would not have gone there since that would contradict their belief in a Risen Jesus. Eusebius' description of the tomb of James, who was martyred around 62 AD, appeared to be a singular tomb. Why was he not buried in the so-called family tomb of Jesus?

Lastly, what is the significance of Talpiot as the final resting place of Jesus and his family?

Jesus came from Nazareth and most probably, some members of his close family (like Mary) were still alive at the time of his death. Followers could bury him there or somewhere in Galilee like in Capernaum, his adopted town.

In short, the documentary, "The Lost Tomb of Jesus," does not have compelling evidence to "rewrite Christianity."

US traders bullish on RP, to invest $3B

From page A1

PRESIDENT ARROYO: Great!

What they are looking for is "a good Congress" that can continue with the economic reforms, Sears said.

To which an elated Ms Arroyo exclaimed: "Great!"

The President said the economy could be distracted or derailed by electoral battles.

"In the case of Ford (Phil.) they're opening up their plant in April, so they didn't wait. But in general, judging by what the foreign chambers [are doing], I don't think they're waiting," she said.

Noting that the United States poured in $2 billion in investments last year, the President said she expected the "extra" $1 billion [from the $3 billion projection] to come in this year "depending on our competitiveness."

Sears told reporters after the roundtable discussion that there was renewed investor confidence in the Philippines because of "the reform movement moving forward" and also because "the economic team has demonstrated the capacity to move forward aggressively."

Ending red tape

These two factors, he said, led "to more foreign investments and more Philippine investments as well."

However, he said the government would need to eliminate red tape in its bureaucracy so that investments can go up to $9 billion every year.

"We did a survey ... on various areas. The feedback we got was the most optimistic is $9 billion. That's our ultimate targeting if everything falls into place," he said.

Sears singled out as problematic bureaucracies the local governments of certain Philippine cities, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

He said AmCham was talking with various government agencies to address the problem of red tape.

"Local government is one area that came up. Everything you pay when you go to city hall, the BIR, BOC was on the list. We're working with them on issues," he said.

Ford Phil. chair Henry Co said that lower interest rates, a stronger peso and lower oil prices augured well for a better business climate.

Balanced budget by 2010

On balancing the budget, Ms Arroyo said she had repeatedly told her economic managers to achieve a balanced budget by 2010 but they were insisting on balancing the budget by next year.

She said she was for balancing the budget by 2010 as she felt the government should be spending on infrastructure and social welfare.

The government has targeted a deficit of P63 billion this year.

"It's up to the economic managers, that's their decision. If they want to relax it and move for a later balanced budget, that's fine with me also," she said.

"They know what they can do, and I don't want them to be more ambitious than me," she said.

Ms Arroyo also expressed elation over the ability of the local bourse to promptly bounce back, after stock markets around the world crashed on Wednesday following the fall in China's stocks in the biggest one-day plunge in a decade.

"Actually, our country recovered the best. We had the best recovery," the President said.

Legislative reforms

In a letter to Ms Arroyo recently, the Joint Foreign Chambers led by the AmCham congratulated the President "for the passage of legislative reforms needed to improve the investment climate in the Philippines."

It said the foreign chambers had supported the enactment by Congress of several laws which it believed would "contribute to the continued growth and to the restoration of international confidence in the macro-economic management of the Philippine economy under your administration."

The laws were: Republic Act No. 9334, or the Alcohol Tobacco Excise Tax Law; RA 9335, or the Lateral Attrition Law; RA 9337, or the Expanded VAT Law; RA 9343, or the Special Purpose Vehicle Act Extension Law, and RA 9361, or the Expanded Vat Law.

It also noted that Congress recently enacted RA 9367, or the Biofuels Act, and ratified the bicameral conference committee report on amendments to the BCDA Act and the One-Time Tax Amnesty to Locators in Special Economic Zones, all of which only need the President's signature.

Mike A co-starring in Cayetano's TV plug

From page A1

It features a brief footage of Arroyo snapping at Taguig Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano during the House committee hearing on the First Family's alleged hidden wealth abroad. It also shows Cayetano insisting: "No, it is the business of the Filipino people!"

Then the video clip morphs into an animated cartoon cum rock music video featuring the many faces of Cayetano.

The ad ends where it began—with Arroyo growling: "None of your business!" albeit only in a voice-over.

Of the political ads that have hit the airwaves in the runup to the May 14 polls, this one seems to be testing the already murky boundaries of election propaganda by showing the face—and carrying a sound bite—of the candidate's "enemy."

Directed by Cayetano's younger brother Lino and conceptualized by adman Greg Garcia, the ad started airing on the GMA network last Monday.

"We are not violating any rules of the Comelec; [the video] is actual news footage of the hearing," Cayetano told the INQUIRER yesterday, when told that his TV spot seemed to have pushed the envelope by using an unwilling party like Arroyo as a major character—unflatteringly depicted, at that—in the ad.

Public figure

Arroyo is neither a candidate in the May elections nor a public official in the strict sense, and has in fact been asserting his right to privacy in his public skirmishes with the opposition stalwart.

"He is a public figure and the video is neither false nor was it edited," Cayetano maintained.

That particular clip, he said, captured a tense exchange during a House hearing last Feb. 6 in which he was "cross-examining" President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband on the overseas bank accounts allegedly maintained by their family.

"This is not about pushing the limits [of what is allowed in campaign ads] but pushing the advocacy. It is about asking the people: 'Is this the kind of government you want,'" Cayetano said.

Not libelous

"We will continue airing the ad. Getting me elected is only secondary here; the primary goal is to make the Arroyo government acknowledge and realize that it is accountable to the people," he stressed.

Told about Cayetano's ad, Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said that "it's allowable as long as it is not libelous" and it would not pin any "wrongdoing" on the party alluded to.

The Comelec chief said the GO candidate could "capitalize" on such video material within that limit.

'Con-ass?'

In an interview last Thursday, Cayetano said that if elected to the Senate, he would resume his investigation of the Arroyo family's "con-ass."

But con-ass, this time, would not stand for "Constituent assembly" (a mode by which the Arroyo administration and its House allies tried to amend the 1987 Constitution last year), but for "concealed assets," Cayetano said with a smile.

He claimed to have in his possession documents that had not yet been made public, even during his previous House tussles with the First Gentleman, because the witnesses would only be willing to testify in an impeachment trial.

Impeachment

According to Cayetano, the Arroyo administration's "style" has been to "box" critics like him in a venue wherein they cannot use legal tools, such as the Bank Secrecy Law, to reveal the alleged bank accounts of the First Family.

"They will take you out of the court: Basketball is the game but they will change it to volleyball. In impeachment proceedings, you can open an account, but not in a libel court or an ethics committee hearing.

"And witnesses like Clarissa Ocampo (the bank executive who was the star witness in the 2001 Estrada impeachment trial) will only come out in an impeachment court, not in an ethics case," he explained.

Cayetano said he had been in contact with "very highly placed officials," some still in Ms Arroyo's camp, who had offered him evidence "with the agreement that it will be used if the impeachment pushes through."

He added: "The group of the First Gentleman is doing everything [so] that I won't win, because they know when I get to the Senate and get my hands on a committee ... he will really have people like me to deal with."

Team heads to US to plead nurses' case

DESPITE THE EMPHATIC ASSERTION BY THE US-based Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools that it would not accept Filipino nurses who passed the leak-tainted June 2006 board exams unless they retook portions of the test was final, four officials of vested interest groups will still leave for the US this morning to meet with CGFNS officials tomorrow.

PRC Chair Leonor Rosero told the INQUIRER yesterday they would explain in detail to the CGFNS what happened last year and the steps they took to address the problem. She said they would also ask the CGFNS how it came up with its decision.

She said their explanation would be "some sort of an appeal."

Days ago, PRC officials had announced they were starting to prepare for the possibility of a voluntary retake by the affected nurses.

But Rosero said yesterday the preparations had been put on hold in the meantime: "We will know what to do after the [US] meeting," she said.

She is part of the team President Macapagal-Arroyo had created in an attempt to appeal the CGFNS decision.

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella will head the team, which includes Association of Deans of Philippine Colleges of Nursing president Dr. Remigia Nathanielz and the anti-retake Alliance of New Nurses president Renato Aquino. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

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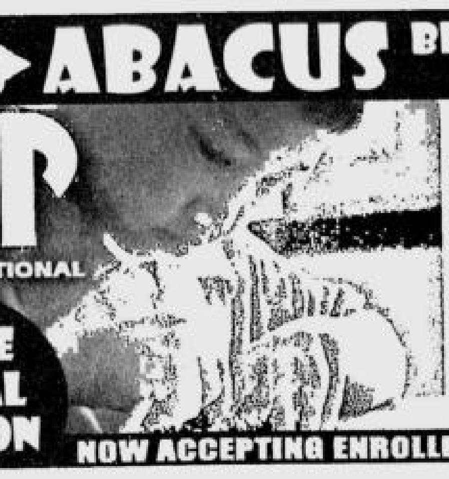

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Dishonest Abe

EDITORIALS

GIVEN HIS POLITICS, IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF time before Shinzo Abe, elected prime minister of Japan just last September, would roil regional waters. Last Thursday, he did so, and in outrageous fashion. He told reporters that the hundreds of thousands of "comfort women" forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese army in the 1930s and 1940s were not victims of abuse; they had entered the army's network of military brothels willingly.

"There was no evidence to prove there was coercion as initially suggested," Abe said. "That largely changes what constitutes the definition of coercion, and we have to take it from there."

No, we don't. Abe has been painted in the international press as one of fortune's darlings—the son of a foreign minister and grandson of a prime minister, destined for high office. In fact, he has very limited experience running, much less succeeding in, offices of state; instead, he is the product of machine politics and an extreme nationalism that refuses to apologize for Japan's behavior in its invasion of China and during World War II. He is popular in Japan in large part because he has taken a tough stance against North Korea; we will see whether the inevitable backlash from China, South Korea and even staunch allies like the Philippines—where thousands of women were repeatedly raped in the Japanese army's "comfort stations"—will change or confirm his countrymen's opinion of him.

But the truth of the comfort women scandal does not lie in public opinion; it lies in the documented evidence, gathered especially in the last decade and a half, that paints a horrifying picture of an elaborate system of forced prostitution unprecedented in history. Some of the evidence comes from some of the soldier-rapists themselves, such as 87-year-old Yasuji Kaneko. "Whether in military brothels or in the villages, we raped without reluctance," Kaneko told an interviewer the other day.

After intense pressure from the international community, the Japanese government issued an apology of sorts in 1993; even that limited expression of remorse, however, has now been invalidated by Abe's brazen dishonesty. He slyly implies that in all the hue and cry coercion was merely suggested; it was not. It was alleged and then proven, again and again, with evidence that can meet the standard of any court of law.

But Abe mistakenly believes that the future of Japanese nationalism rests on a revision of the standard history texts—a point of view that reflects Japanese self-doubt following the Japanese economic slowdown more than it does any latent aggressiveness in the Japanese character. But a mistake nevertheless. The countries ravaged by the Japanese army three generations ago only want a forthright apology and reasonable compensation for the victims; Abe's outrageous remarks place the solution even more out of reach.

Fateful Erap

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE DEBATE BETWEEN senatorial candidates, even though the scope of discussion seems to have been unnecessarily narrowed to only economic matters. But hope springs eternal, and we are optimistic that even a limited debate would still prove useful, especially to voters desperate to go beyond the shallowness of TV ads and the one-dimensionality of slogans and posters.

The whole idea started when the opposition ran a full-page ad in the newspapers, disputing the Arroyo administration's sunny interpretation of economic indicators. Now that both the administration candidates and officials have countered with their own reading of economic trends, the issue is joined.

Only one thing: We are struck by the opposition's use of economic numbers from the Estrada years as the benchmark by which to judge the Arroyo administration's claims. In doing so, the opposition reinforces the original story line which administration officials used to frame the May elections, that it was a grudge match between the former president and the incumbent.

It isn't, as the opposition itself knows. But we guess some habits, even a fateful "fatal attraction" to the deposed president, are hard to break.

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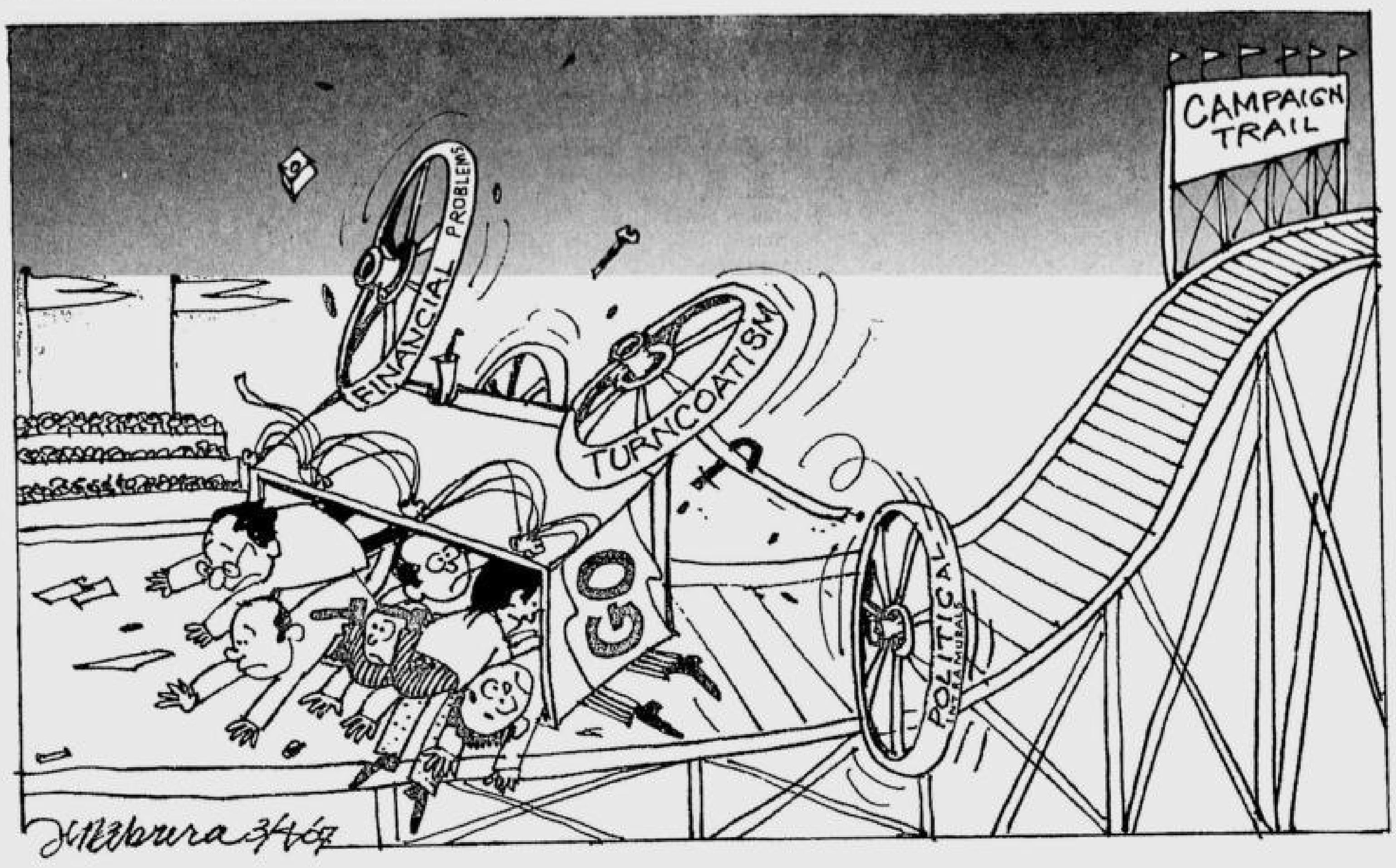

Prohibited election entertainment

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HAS ordered senatorial candidate Cesar Montano and a cable channel to explain why they should not be cited for contempt for airing last week a movie documentary hosted by Montano on the Edsa Revolution of 1986.

Such act is presumably violative of the Fair Election Act, which provides in its Sec. 6.8 that "no movie, cinematograph or documentary portrayed by an actor or media personality who is himself a candidate shall likewise be exhibited in a theater or any public forum during the campaign period."

Violation of this or many other provision of the law is also a ground for disqualification of the erring candidate.

Montano is a well-known movie personality who is much admired for his talent as an actor and director. I would say he is head and shoulders above many of his colleagues in the industry as far as intellectual endowments are concerned. I have no objection to him as an entertainer because he adequately proves that entertainers as such are not per se unfit for public office. Nevertheless, I have to say that his exceptional qualifications do not exempt him from the operation of the law he may have violated.

As a member of the Supreme Court, I was the foremost opponent of a similar law that was sustained in 1992. Fortunately, my basic objections to it have been sustained with the adoption of the Fair Election Act that provides for more reasonable restrictions on the prohibition. Now, by implementing resolution of the Comelec, a registered candidate or political party seeking national elective office is given 120 minutes on TV and 180 minutes on radio for election propaganda. But subject to the above-quoted Sec. 6.8.

I suppose Montano will try to justify his questioned act by invoking freedom of expression. But that freedom, like all freedoms (except the freedom to believe as long as it is not externalized) is not absolute. As precious as this liberty is, it is subject to the police power for the promotion of the public welfare and the protection of private interests.

I believe that Sec. 6.8 of the Fair Election Act is valid. The obvious purpose of the prohibition is to equalize as much as possible the opportunities of the candidates in conducting their respective campaigns. Without it, entertainers would have the initial advantage over their rivals who are less known although better qualified than many of them.

Name recognition is important in political elections. A toilet comedian from TV has more prospects than an obscure but brilliant bar topnotcher. Bong Revilla would have topped the 2004 senatorial elections were it not for Mar Roxas who made himself better known as "Mr. Palengke" with his insistent commercials. If Lito Lapid had been allowed to gallop in theaters and open-air forums then, his horse could have outrun the two top contenders although its rider never finished high school.

In 2003, Arnold Schwarzenegger won as governor of California because many voters recognized him as the movie actor with the big physique although they could not spell his name. Ronald Reagan beat incumbent President Jimmy Carter in 1980 because his fans remembered Ronnie as the cowboy from Hollywood who also starred in "Death Valley Days" on TV. There is no question that our own Dolphy could win any election here, but he prefers to stay in his own turf with his humble and pointed question, *"Paano kung manalo ako?"*

In my dissent in National Press Club v. Commission on Elections, 217 SCRA 1, I made the following remarks that may guide the government against unlawful further restrictions on the campaign activities of the current candidates:

"I realize only too well that the ideas that may be conveyed by the prohibited media advertisements would mostly be exaggerations or distortions or plain poppycock that may intrude upon our leisure hours if not also offend our intelligence and exhaust our patience. We may, indeed, be opening a Pandora's Box. But these are unavoidable in the free society. As part of the larger picture, these impositions are only minor irritations that, placed in proper perspective, should not justify the withdrawal of the great and inalienable liberty that is the bedrock of this Republic. It is best to remember in this regard that freedom of expression exists not only for the thought that agrees with us, to paraphrase Justice Holmes, but also for the thought that we abhor."

Let me commend the Commission on Elections for its apparent earnestness in the enforcement of the election laws as demonstrated by its current action against Montano and the cable company for their supposed violation of the Fair Election Act. I had earlier expressed distrust of its plan to punish the illegal pasting of election posters, but I would be sincerely happy if it could prove I was mistaken.

Changes

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

ALBERT EINSTEIN IS SAID TO HAVE ONCE said: "Men love women with the hope they will never change. Women love men with the hope they will change. Invariably they are both disappointed."

* * *

Today's Gospel (Lk. 9, 28-36) is about the transfiguration of Christ before His disciples Peter, James and John. While He was praying, His face changed in appearance, and His clothing turned into dazzling white. Lent is the time when we are called to change our old ways and be converted. The call for all of us is: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

* * *

It is interesting to note that the transfiguration occurred while Jesus was praying. There can be no real qualitative and lasting change in our lives without prayer. Real change is from within, not artificial, not superficial and not temporary. Let us all pray and be open to real transfiguration and transformation in our lives, and this happens when we really listen to God in prayer.

* * *

Peter, overwhelmed by the experience of the transfiguration said: "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." But there was no response from Jesus. Instead, there was a voice from the cloud that said, "This is my beloved Son; listen to Him." Over and above and before all the doing, a true follower of Jesus must do a lot of praying and listening. Think of all the blunders, errors and indiscretions in our lives. If only we really listened!

* * *

We are reminded today that in this world we only have tents, for this is not our permanent dwelling place. So instead of being busy building up our kingdoms and empires, instead of being so caught up in hoarding earthly riches, instead of being so engrossed in aspiring or maintaining our power or positions, let us ask ourselves these questions: Is the Father pleased with me? Is He happy with the kind of life that I am living? Real change happens when we are no longer so much preoccupied with questions such as: "How much money do I have? How much power do I posses? How much pleasures are available for me? Real changed happens when we simply ask: Is this what God wants? Will this make God happy?"

* * *

For those who are so busy pursuing their political kingdoms, remember, you are only building tents which can be blown away in an instant. Remember, you are not permanent, and what you are building is all temporary. Build rather on the heart. Build on your heart, on people's heart and on God's heart. Don't leave behind footprints but heart prints. The results may not be quantifiable or profitable but, nevertheless, meaningful and valuable, salvific and pleasing to the Father.

* * *

I don't see much transfiguration happening in the way we are doing politics in our country. Same tricks, same methods, same modus operandi, same techniques. Worse, same people! Except for some who dare to be different, and who dream and believe. Let us give the prophets in our midst a chance to show us a new brand of politics. Away with the politics for profit. Welcome, and please encourage and help, political prophets. Let us bring back truthfulness and righteousness. Let us not be imprisoned by the rule and power of money, especially dirty money in our land. Transfiguration, here! Now!

* * *

Here is a beautiful prayer that we can say whatever difficult situation we are in—be it traffic, financial difficulty, troubled relationship, sickness, natural or national disasters (like elections): "St. Michael the Archangel, cut us lose, set us free and pave the way for us. Amen!"

* * *

Let me share with you a text message I received, a beautiful paraphrase of 1 Cor. 13 about love: "Love never gives up; love cares more for others than for self; love doesn't want what it doesn't have; love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle; doesn't keep the score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel; takes pleasure in the flowering of truth; puts up with anything; trusts God always; always looks for the best; never looks back, but keeps on going to the end."

* * *

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* * *

Allotting a few minutes every day to reflect on our daily activities enlightens our mind, text ON MOMENTS to 2948 for Globe/Sun or 3940 for Smart to receive moments of reflection through your mobile phone. God bless you. Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, change my heart and help me to leave behind not just footprints but also heart prints when I'm gone. Amen.

Jose Wright Diokno

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

NOT TOO LONG AGO, I ATTENDED A HOLY Mass celebrated by a well-known archbishop who delivered a stirring homily. He said, "In the Old Testament, there are Ten Commandments, but in the New, our Lord Jesus Christ reduced them to two: love thy God and love thy neighbor. And how does one love thy neighbor?"

Citing Scriptures (Matthew 25), Archbishop Oscar Cruz proclaimed the Christian answer: we show love when we feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit the prisoners.

Beyond the Gospel. But the sagacious prelate went beyond the Gospel and asked: Shall we just feed the hungry but not punish the greedy who deprived them of food? Shall we just provide clothing without chasing the robbers who stole the clothes? Shall we just visit the prisoners without bringing to justice the tyrants who jailed them?

Reflecting on these questions after I arrived home that evening, I thought of Jose W. Diokno whose 85th birthday was observed last Feb. 26, and 20th death anniversary, a day later on Feb. 27.

To commemorate these dual occasions, the De La Salle Professional Schools conferred the "3rd Ka Pepe Diokno Human Rights Award" posthumously on Augusto "Bobbit" S. Sanchez.

At the same time, it also launched "Diokno on Trial: Techniques and Ideals of the Filipino Lawyer" authored by Jose Manuel I. Diokno. This book compiled the elder Diokno's strategies on how to win a case "all the way."

As the keynote speaker, I spoke not so much of Ka Pepe's fight for human rights or advocacies as a great lawyer. Mainly, I remembered him as the answer to Archbishop Cruz's questions.

Ethical and competent. Jose Wright Diokno was a celebrated justice secretary and senator who certainly knew the law and practised the ethical standards expected of attorneys and public servants. He easily exemplified the "EC, ethics and competence" that I—as Chief Justice—had asked from every lawyer.

JWD topped both the CPA and the bar examinations. With special permission from the Supreme Court, he took the bar tests without having formally graduated from law school. To this day, his feat remains unsurpassed.

During his time—and, maybe, even during our time—the country was besieged by officials who arrogated absolute power to themselves, plundered the treasury and used their public offices to amass ill-gotten wealth.

There were, however, a handful who—even while serving under abusive regimes—kept themselves personally pure, discharged their functions efficiently and refused to join the corrupt in raiding the public treasury. Moreover, they contributed to charity and helped the destitute.

Integrity, not mere honesty. While these few good men and women could be described as honest public servants who followed Scriptures, they did nothing to stamp out the evil around them, contented as they were with distancing themselves from the evil conspiracy.

Honesty is a virtue taught in grade school. I am not critical of those who sincerely exemplify it. But beyond honesty, the country needed—and still needs—men and women of integrity, who will not merely refuse to tell a falsehood, but who possess the moral courage to punish the greedy, chase the robbers and prosecute the tyrants.

Senator Diokno twice supported the presidential candidacy of Ferdinand E. Marcos in 1965 and 1969. But after it became clear that Marcos was veering away from the straight and narrow path, Ka Pepe did not hesitate to part from him and to denounce his excesses.

He could have kept quiet and tolerated the abuses. After all, his place in history was secure. He was brilliant, honest, eloquent and well-respected. However, he chose not only to keep himself clean and pure; he worked fervently—at the risk of his own safety, health, earthly possessions and career—to restore freedom in our land, to denounce the plunderers, to vindicate the poor and to make truth and justice prevail. For these pursuits, he was incarcerated and kept under solitary confinement without being charged or tried, much less convicted.

More than being honest, Jose Wright Diokno was a person of moral courage. He was moved by immutable values and principles, not by pettiness or convenience. Indeed, he was a visionary leader of exemplary integrity.

Bantayog heroes and leaders. Aside from JWD, are there others who measure up to the imperatives of visionary leadership by example? Certainly. Many of them are memorialized in the Wall of Remembrance built by the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation at Quezon Avenue near the corner of Edsa, Quezon City.

These heroes include Ninoy Aquino, Cesar Climaco, Roberto Concepcion, Evelio Javier, Raul Manglapus, Jaime Ongpin, JBL Reyes, Jaime Sin, Lorenzo Tañada, Claudio Teehankee and several others, all of whom, however, are already in the Great Beyond.

Sen. Jovito R. Salonga, Bantayog founder, has said that "a nation is measured by the quality of the men and women it honors." In our midst, are there living government leaders whom our people can look up to because of their vision, mission, core values and personal example?

Let the readers, especially the Ayala Young Leaders Congress (AYLC) delegates whom I met last Feb. 7, answer this question. Should there be worthy living choices, I will—space permitting—acclaim them in this column at some future time. How about it, AYLC?

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Memory and explanations

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES, OUR INSTINCT IS to try to make sense of it. Especially when the tragedy comes at the tail-end of a series of "unfortunate events," the human mind's first tendency is to understand, and, failing that, to wonder why it had to happen in the first place.

When my brother Bo died last week, we were all shell-shocked, silenced by disbelief and incomprehension. Just six months had passed since my older brother Nono's passing, and in the two years previous, my sister Neneng and my brother Manny had likewise passed on. What explains this series of deaths? What message is the higher power sending?

Maybe there is no explanation—or if there is, then it is too profound and mysterious for our simple minds to grasp. When one of my cousins told another cousin that we were planning to undergo a "healing of the family tree," the second cousin exclaimed: "What healing? All they need is a change of diet!" Is that the answer we are seeking? The age-old mantra of diet and exercise in a family where hypertension, heart disease and diabetes are an unshakeable legacy?

I would much prefer this explanation, though, to another one that someone far away proposed: that we are a family that is "cursed." I want to ask her: why are we cursed? What great sin has this family committed that we should be visited by successive heartaches? I refuse to believe that God—to whom she professes to be so devoted—would be that cruel and whimsical. Then again, there is no accounting for human cruelty and tactlessness.

* * *

MY family did undergo that healing session, though. Because a sister was leaving for abroad the next day, the three-day process was reduced to a few hours of group counseling.

Unfortunately, I didn't make it even to that truncated session because of a previous commitment. Maybe, it was providential that I wasn't able to join them. As far as tragedies go, I would much rather abide by the adage that "there is no explanation." Explanations might satisfy our curiosity, settle our fears, or provide targets for our left-over grief and anger. But they will not ease our loneliness, or make us miss the person less.

I happen to believe that our primary responsibility as survivors is to keep living, and to find the will and the strength not to move on (as if we were leaving excess baggage behind) but rather to find meaning in the days, months and years that are left us, and despite the occasional bouts of sadness, loss and, maybe, even resentment.

* * *

WE had no lack of advice from relatives and friends about how to avert another tragedy.

We made sure no one brought home food from the wake, determinedly throwing away leftovers even if wasting food seemed a bigger sin than courting the fates. We broke the rosary in Bo's hand before his cremation, we didn't see off mourners, his family didn't rush home after the interment.

But Bo may have had the last laugh. At his memorial service, we all fought the urge to go maudlin and melancholic, knowing how he hated pretension and pomposity. Instead, courtesy of our nephew Nikko and Bo's son Jami, we had laughter galore and audio-visuals full of pictures of Bo and his family in happier times. His friends from the Ateneo offered a simple explanation for his early passing: he was simply faster than all of them, being a sprinter in his athletic days. And we all said: run Bo, go Bo, we don't mind getting left behind!

My own explanation for the inexplicable comes by way of a passage from the notebooks of the German poet Rainer Maria Rilke, which I happened upon soon after Bo's passing. I hope you find in his words some comfort and consolation, whatever or whomever it is you are mourning now.

* * *

...AH, poems amount to so little when you write too early in your life. You ought to wait and gather sense and sweetness for a whole lifetime, and a long one if possible, and then, at the very end, you might perhaps be able to write ten good lines. For poems are not, as people think, simply emotions (one has emotions early enough)—they are experiences. For the sake of a single poem, you must see many cities, many people and Things, you must understand animals, must feel how birds fly, and know the gesture which small flowers make when they open in the morning. You must be able to think back to streets in unknown neighborhoods, to unexpected encounters, and to partings you had long seen coming; to days of childhood whose mystery is still unexplained, to parents whom you had to hurt when they brought in a joy and you didn't pick it up (it was a joy meant for somebody else); to childhood illness that began so strangely with so many profound and difficult transformations, to days in quiet; restrained rooms and to mornings by the sea, to the sea itself, to seas, to nights of travel that rushed along high overhead and went flying with all the stars—and it is still not enough to be able to think of all that. You must have memories of many nights of love, each one different from all the others, memories of women screaming in labor, and of light, pale sleeping girls who have just given birth and are closing again. But you must also have been beside the dying, must have sat beside the dead in the room with the open window and the scattered noises. And it is not yet enough to have memories. You must be able to forget them when they are many, and you must have the immense patience to wait until they return. For the memories themselves are not important. Only when they have changed into our very blood, into glance and gesture, and are nameless, no longer to be distinguished from ourselves—only then can it happen that in some very rare hour the first word of a poem arises in their midst and goes forth from them.

Militarization by other means

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

SOLDIERS ERECTING CHECKPOINTS, ENTERING communities, and rounding up and interrogating residents in various parts of the country have become so commonplace in Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's regime that we take for granted their lawfulness. Do soldiers have a right to do these things?

Not being a lawyer, I can only ask questions. The construction of the 1987 Constitution is easy enough to permit its commonsensical understanding by ordinary citizens. I turn to its words and the values around which it is woven whenever I am bothered by the actions of government. The Constitution is the self-defense and is a necessity of any democratic nation. Every citizen should keep a copy of his country's Constitution in his pocket.

There is a division of labor between the military and the police that is recognized in every modern society and is upheld in the successive constitutions we have had in our country. The maintenance of peace and order within communities is basically the function of the police. Our Constitution states that such a police force is "national in scope and civilian in character."

The same Constitution declares among its guiding principles and policies that "Civilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military. The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory." I understand sovereignty to mean the power to govern oneself. To defend a nation's sovereignty is to protect the nation against foreign invaders. To secure the integrity of the national territory is to protect it against forces that seek its dismemberment. On this basis, one may understand the active presence of soldiers in parts of Mindanao where secessionist movements operate. But how does one account for the presence of military patrols in the streets of Barangay Commonwealth in Quezon City?

I quote from a report that appeared in the INQUIRER yesterday (3/3/07): "The military said the deployment of soldiers in some areas of Metro Manila was part of civil military operations in certain barangays where issues like poverty can be exploited by communist insurgents .... Army spokesperson Maj. Ernesto Torres said the deployments had been going on since November last year and were mostly in depressed barangays. Troops are sent to barangays where they stay and 'talk to (residents), ask them how they are doing and tell them there are programs of government which they can avail (themselves) of,' Torres said in a phone interview. Torres said this was a 'holistic approach' in addressing the insurgency problem. AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said such deployments were 'normal' as it was the AFP-NCR-Com mandate to 'protect Metro Manila'."

Protect Metro Manila against whom? Against suspected communists? Sec. 18 (1) of the Bill of Rights is clear on this: "No person shall be detained solely by reason of his political beliefs and aspirations." Last I heard is that no one can be penalized for mere membership in a communist organization. But as important, if Metro Manila is to be protected, whose function is this? I always assumed this belonged to the police.

There is basis for this assumption. The Constitution takes for granted that the maintenance of peace and order is not the normal function of soldiers but of the police. And so it specifies those exceptional instances when the government, through the President, may call out the military. Art. VII, Sec. 18 provides: "The President shall be the Commander-in-Chief of all armed forces of the Philippines and whenever it becomes necessary, he may call out such armed forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion, or rebellion."

The last time Ms Arroyo invoked these Commander-in-Chief powers was on Feb. 23, 2006 when she issued Presidential Proclamation 1017 declaring a State of National Emergency. Recognizing that these are emergency powers, the framers of our Constitution made their exercise subject to very stringent qualifications. The most important of these is the provision that ensures the undiminished validity of the Bill of Rights even during such emergencies.

The Supreme Court held PP 1017 to be valid insofar as it was an exercise of the calling-out powers "to prevent or suppress lawless violence," but struck it down as unconstitutional insofar as it claimed powers for the President that did not belong to her office. These are: the power to issue decrees, to direct the military to enforce obedience to all laws including those not related to lawless violence, and to impose standards on media.

The question we must now ask is: Does lawless violence exist today in our barangays, towns and cities to warrant the engagement of the military in the everyday maintenance of peace and order in our communities? If there is, what is its extent? What is the basis for this assessment? What limits are there, if any, to what the military can do in the course of "suppressing and preventing lawless violence"?

If one goes by the 1987 Constitution alone, there can be no doubt that with these recent troop deployments, the military has overstepped its mandate. My fear is that the antiterrorism law (now euphemistically titled "The Human Security Act of 2007") is aimed precisely at preempting these questions. By routinizing an undeclared state of emergency, the government lays the ground for the militarization of our communities.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

The greening of Bush

WORLD VIEW

Claus Leggewie

THE UNITED STATES IS USUALLY REGARDED AS AN environmental laggard, with President George W. Bush perceived as being little better than the head of a gang of willful polluters who do everything they can to obstruct global action to protect the environment. Of course, there is some truth in this characterization of America (and quite a lot in that of Bush), but the picture is not uniformly bleak.

Indeed, the environmental movement—like most modern social movements—began in the United States. The roots of America's "environmental movement" lie in the 19th century, when the damage wrought by the industrial revolution and the fragmentation of the natural landscape by individual property rights and tenures first became apparent.

But it was the publication in 1962 of the book "Silent Spring"—a polemic against the use of pesticides in agriculture—by the biologist Rachel Carson that jump-started the modern ecological movement. Carson drew on scientific findings, but also voiced fundamental misgivings about consumer capitalism and a "postmaterialistic" belief in the primacy of the quality of life over economic growth. In Carson's wake, the "Woodstock" generation of the 1960s, with its Earth Days, soon began to organize a broad campaign which saw, in April 1970, around 20 million Americans take to the street to defend the environment.

In this new movement, the libertarian tendencies of the New Left and the protectionist tendencies of the traditional right became intertwined. Paul Ehrlich's bestseller "The Population Bomb" exerted an influence that lasts to this day. America's environmental movement was soon exported to Europe and elsewhere: on one hand, the pragmatic Friends of the Earth and the media-oriented organization Greenpeace; and, on the other hand, the eco-fundamentalist groups like Earth First! and the Environmental Justice Movement (EJM) or the lobbying groups like the World Wildlife Fund.

This movement managed to force the first environmental laws out of the conservative Nixon administration: the National Environmental Act of 1969, the Clean Air Act of 1970, the Clean Water Act of 1972, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Then as now, the focus in America was on "green" topics (clean water, fresh air and biological diversity) rather than on the "brown" topics of ecological disasters such as the Chernobyl (or Harrisburg) disaster, which have played a dominant role in mobilizing Europeans.

America's influential Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also was established under Nixon. Environmentalists hired scientists, lawyers and lobbyists who made sure that laws weren't just passed in Congress but also implemented in practice.

But the current Bush administration has been hacking away at these laws of the 1970s from all directions. He approved oil exploration in closed nature reserves, and also systematically fought to suppress scientific evidence on climate change. Now, however, due to the surge in crude oil prices, even Bush has had to begin to consider alternative energy sources, and it won't be possible to limit these to nuclear power or ethanol, which is so popular among farmers, a key Bush constituency.

Indeed, even Bush's own political base, the Christian fundamentalists, are becoming "green," pressuring the administration to sign the Kyoto Protocol because they believe that the environment must be protected just like unborn life. "Eco-theology" and evangelical pro-life propaganda have become one of the liveliest branches of the US environmental movement. "Green" eco-activists, while feeling awkward about support from this quarter, nonetheless find them useful allies.

Indeed, the greening of America is becoming a general proposition. Many Americans can only shake their heads at the energy lobbyists who surround Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney. And for a long time now, a majority has been in favor of signing multilateral agreements, particularly in the area of climate protection. Catastrophic events like Hurricane Katrina have reinforced this stance.

All this has caused Bush to seek to accommodate—verbally, at least—the will of an overwhelming majority of Americans to conserve energy. Moreover, although Bush has given mainly national security reasons for his seeming change of heart, America's federal system helps the country get around a roadblock as powerful as the president, as "localism" promotes eco-political initiatives at the state level and even within municipalities.

It is not just California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has recognized the signs of the times and who has proclaimed bold Kyoto targets for his state which may become a pacemaker of All-American modernization again. Political climate change has also been brought about by people like Jerome Ringo, the president of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), whose 4.5 million members make it one of the largest environmental organizations. Ringo also heads the Apollo Alliance, a coalition of trade unions, environmentalist groups, managers and local politicians who are demanding clean energy and good jobs.

How "green America" will actually become remains to be seen, of course. But, as an ecological avant-garde, the United States might even regain its lost influence in the world. Those who disdain environmental concerns have been ousted at the polls in large numbers; companies invest huge amounts in environmental technologies; states are suing car producers for their climate-adverse policies; and the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol have long been surpassed by some states—a lesson for German and European cities and municipalities.

As in the past, the effectiveness of these initiatives ultimately will depend on whether these impulses reach Europe and Japan, as well as the emerging nations like China and Brazil. It is time for the "Greens" everywhere to start attending to ecological matters again—and, strange as it may sound, to look again to America for inspiration. Project Syndicate/Institute for Human Sciences

Claus Leggewie is director of the Center for Media and Interactivity at Giessen University, Germany, where he teaches Political Science.

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

PANGLAO

Center of marine biodiversity (2)

A STUDY OF THE WATERS OFF BOHOL'S PANGLAO ISLAND IN 2004 and 2005 found some 200 new crustacean species and 2,000 new mollusk species.

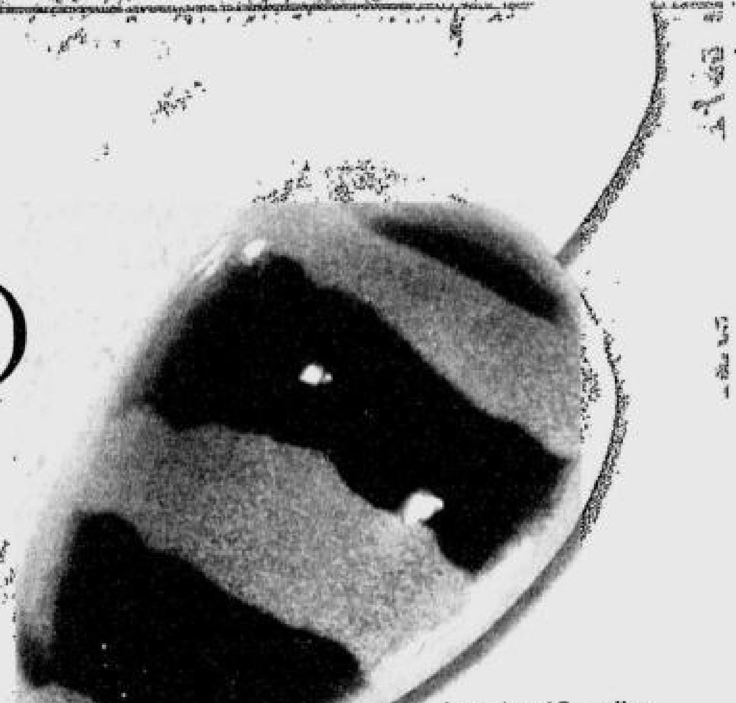
Covering 15,000 hectares, the study yielded more than 1,200 species of decapod (10-footed) crustaceans and some 6,000 species of mollusks. In contrast, the 300-million-hectare Mediterranean Sea has only 340 species of decapods and 2,024 species of mollusks.

The search for new marine species will extend to other parts of the country. The international team that conducted the Panglao study has announced a five-year Census of Philippine Deep-Sea Biodiversity.

In April, the group will conduct a survey in Lamon Bay in Quezon. The team plans to study the South China Sea (Western Luzon) in 2008, the Babuyan Islands and Balintang Channel (North Luzon) in 2009, interior seas and passages in 2010, and Davao Gulf in 2011. (*See map below.*)

Scientists acknowledge that life forms deep in the tropical seas represent one of the last frontiers of marine biodiversity.

The variety of organisms on the planet shows that man is "but a tiny twig on the floridly arborescent bush of life."


A species of **Granulina** (a micromollusk)

Nomenclature commission

THE INTERNATIONAL Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) is a worldwide organization dedicated to the scientific naming of animals.

The ICZN is in charge of publishing the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, which contains universally accepted rules governing the application of scientific names to animals. The organization also rules on individual nomenclatural problems brought to its attention in order to achieve internationally acceptable solutions.

Its secretariat, housed in the Department of Palaeontology at the Natural History Museum in London, oversees the publication of the quarterly journal, "Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature," where problems on naming new species that need the decision of the Commission are published for discussion by the zoological community.

Founded in 1895, ICZN has 28 members from 20 countries. It is a member of of the International Union of Biological Sciences, along with over 70 other international scientific organizations. ***Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research***

Q & A with biologists Philippe Bouchet and Peter Ng

Talk of the Town (ToT): If the 1,500 to 2,500 new mollusks have not all been named, how can you be so sure that the number of new species will be at least 1,500?

Philippe Bouchet (Bouchet): This is an "educated guess" based on the opinion of various experts on different groups of mollusks. The families of large-sized mollusks (collectors' "seashells") are very well-known and it is exceptional to find a new species of cowrie or cone or stromb.

But these families are only the tip of the iceberg of mollusk diversity. Most species of mollusks are small (adult size smaller than 10 millimeters) or very small (adult size smaller than 5 mm), and they are very poorly known.

For instance, we estimate that the Panglao expedition sampled about 300 species of *Eulimidae*, mostly in the size range of 2-10 mm, and 80 percent of these are new. And this is just one of the families of micromollusks.

Although the detailed study of the samples is still in progress (and will take many more years), we estimate that the Panglao expedition sampled some 6,000 species of mollusks, and 25-40 percent of these may be undescribed.

ToT: Who declares these species "new?" Is there a worldwide governing body or organization in charge of this?

Bouchet: There exists an International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN), that regulates how new species must be described. But this body does not rule or decide whether this or that is actually new. Given the immense diversity of animal life on this planet (I think there are 1.5 million species described), a governing body would need to have hundreds or thousands of members.

In fact, when a scientist thinks he or she has a new species, he or she sends an article for publication in a scientific journal. The editor of that journal will, depending on the subject, send it for review to two other scientists. In principle, the reviews are anonymous; the editor relays the reviews to the putative author who will accordingly amend his manuscript.

For instance, a reviewer may find that an important character has not been properly described or illustrated, rendering the evaluation of the new species difficult.

After this process, the revised manuscript will be published, and the name of the new species will then be "available." This does not mean, though, that the new species is new forever. Further research may reveal that the author had misunderstood a biological fact (for instance, he or she may have described as new a juvenile or a male of a species that was hitherto known only from female adults) or one may discover an overlooked description (for instance, a "new" species from the Philippines was not adequately compared with an already known species from South Africa, and further research finds they are the same).

All in all, this is a process in which each scientist is simultaneously proposing new hypotheses (new species), and testing the hypotheses of his or her colleagues and competitors.

Peter Ng (Ng): The expert who studies them. He is the person who has spent many years or even decades studying a particular group of animals and knows which species are which. He has to decide that the unusual features he sees on the new species are unique, that they are not due to variation or damage, are consistent and reliable, and accurately demarcate the species lines.

He also needs to be sure no one else has ever found this before anywhere on the planet. Once all these facts are ascertained, he declares it as new. That is his theory that the population concerned is novel. The scientist then names the species and writes a description, as well as explains why he believes it so.

This manuscript is normally scrutinized by other experts—peers—and if the peer review is satisfactory, the name is published in a journal. Once published, the name is valid. The validity of this name is determined by whether the scientist has followed all the rules of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, a group of senior biologists to which Philippe and I belong.

The commission is not there to check. It is there to mitigate and make rulings when there are problems.

ToT: When was the last time a haul of new species this big was achieved elsewhere in the world?

Bouchet: On average, scientists describe every year a total of 1,600 new marine species, from microbes to fish, to algae, crustacea, etc. The sources of these new discoveries are very diverse and very much distributed geographically, e.g. a new crab from the Strait of Magellan, a new sea urchin from Tasmania, a new mollusk from New Caledonia, etc.

What makes the Panglao expedition stand out is the magnitude of the effort at a single locality in such a short time.

Ng: It has been a long while. Conservation International recently made news by declaring that it found many new species in a Lost Eden in Irian Jaya on land, and also in the sea at Raja Ampat where it said it found many new fish species. For invertebrates, the scale of what we have done is unprecedented.

ToT: How exactly are new species named? Are the specimens taken to a museum with an extensive collection and then compared with existing specimens in order to find out if they can be considered "new?"

Bouchet: Yes, the specimens are taken to wherever an institution or an expert has brought together the reference literature that allows him to scan what has already been named. Museums are traditionally places that are active in biodiversity systematics, but it can also be university departments or marine stations.

Usually, scanning the literature is not enough to come to a final conclusion. Very often, you need to compare your putative new species with actual specimens of the species that most resemble it. If your institution has such reference collections, fine, but in fact no museum worldwide has reference collections that are adequate for all purposes.

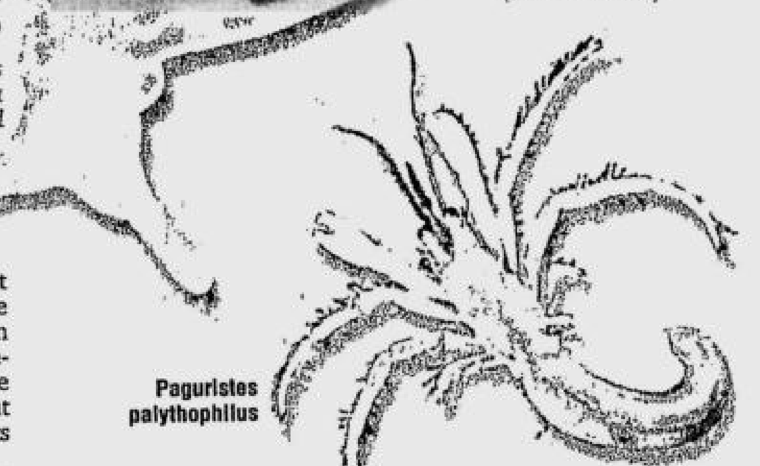
This means that you will need to borrow from other institutions that have reference collections that meet your needs. For instance, when examining a putative new species of gastropod from Panglao, I find that there is a species from South Africa that, judging from the literature, looks similar.

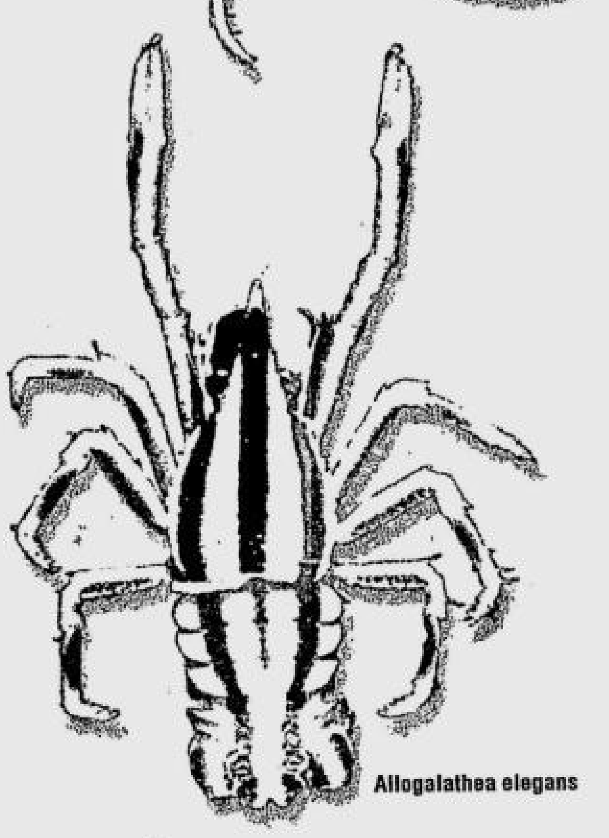
I will then try to locate which museum has appropriate specimens for comparison. It may be a museum in South Africa, but it may also be a museum in Australia, or in Japan, or Europe, or the United States. When I examine this similar species, I may conclude that it looks superficially similar but still they are different, or that they are indeed the same species. In this process of comparisons, holotypes (reference specimens) are of utmost importance because they are the final reference in this comparison process.

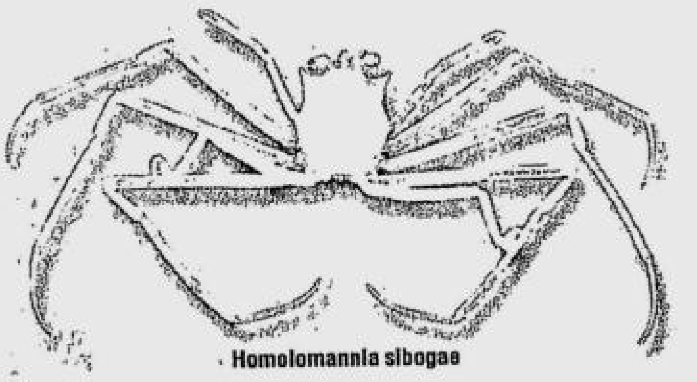
Ng: Many uninformed scientists think that finding and describing new species are no different from stamp collecting. They are horribly wrong. Identifying new species is very different from stamp collecting. It involves *a priori* skills and knowledge, an understanding of how evolution works, of how particular kinds of animals live and reproduce, of growth and variations, and of the taxonomic history. He needs to be not just a biologist but a historian as well. It is almost an art form as it needs a trained eye.

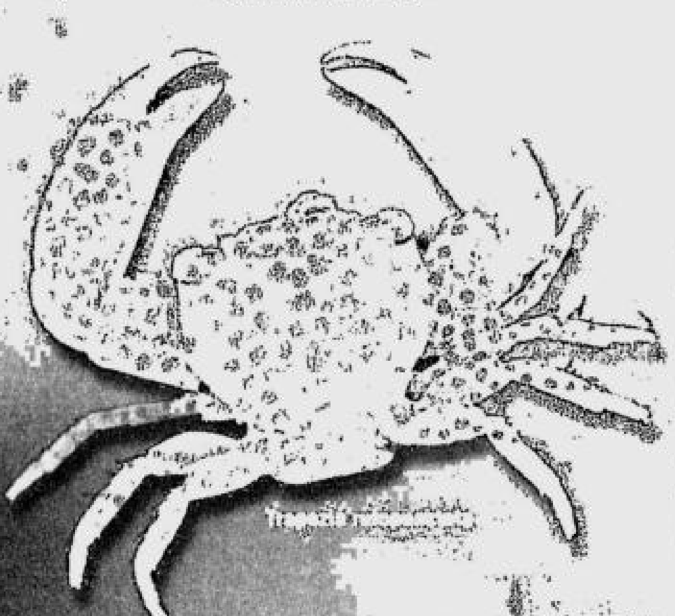
Not everyone can do this. People must remember that stamps are made by men for men. Systematists and taxonomists study organisms that have evolved through four billion years of Earth's history. We have no idea what is out there. That is why discovering them is so fascinating!

(Bouchet is the director for taxonomy collections of the French National Museum of Natural History. Ng is the director of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research at the National University of Singapore. Both are members of the Panglao expedition and the ICZN.)

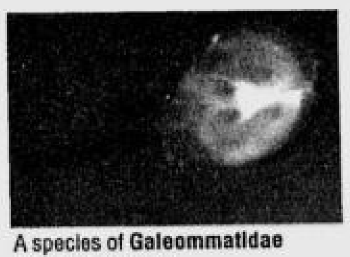

Paguristes palythophilus

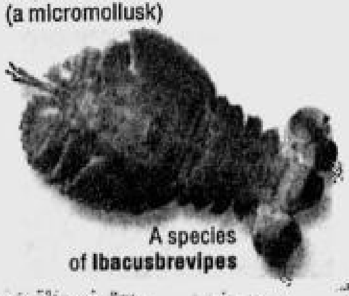

Allogalathea elegans


Homolomannia sibogae

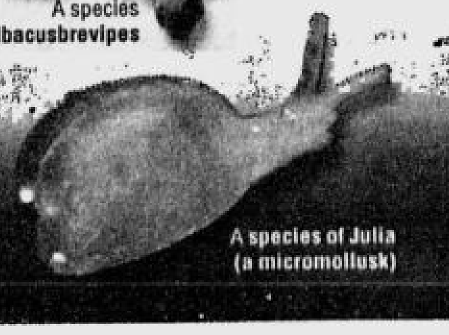


A species of **Volvarina** (a micromollusk)


A species of **Galeommatidae** (a micromollusk)

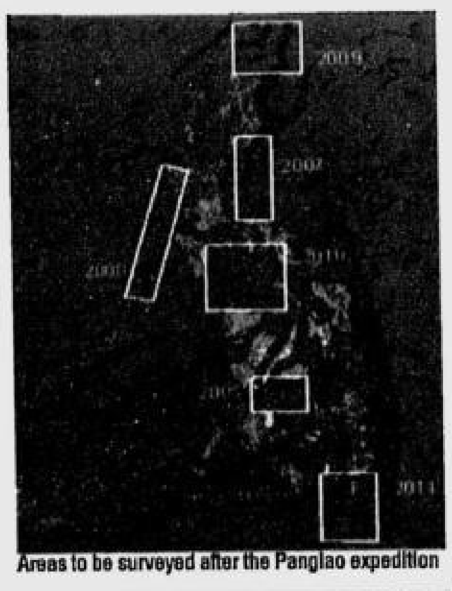

A species of **Ibacusbrevipes**

Leucosia anatum


A species of **Julia** (a micromollusk)

Maja komimatoensis

Taxonomy: Scientific classification of organisms



Areas to be surveyed after the Panglao expedition

IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE 18TH CENTURY that a generally accepted method for classifying and naming plants and animals emerged. In 1736, Swedish naturalist Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778) attempted to arrange living things into classes, genera and species in his published work, "Systema Naturae."

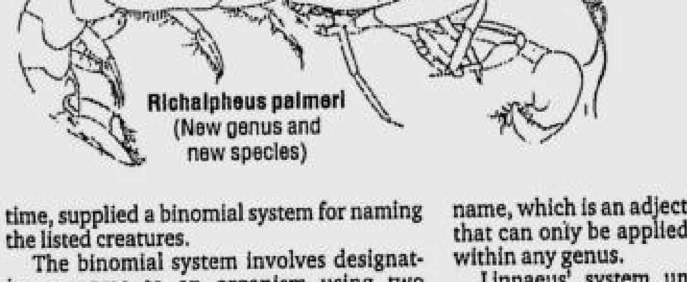
Linnaeus classified organisms in a hierarchy, starting with kingdoms. Kingdoms are divided into phyla (for animals) and divisions (for plants). Both of which are in turn divided into classes, orders, families, genera and species.

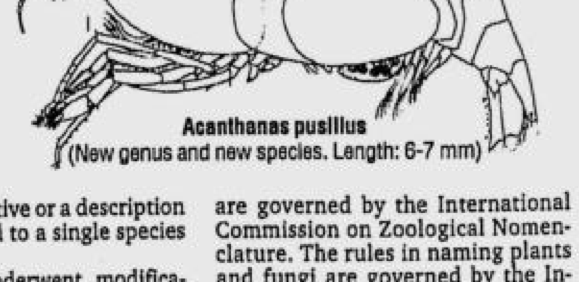
After classifying more organisms through the years, Linnaeus' publication reached its 12th edition (1766) during his life. By convention, however, the nomenclature is determined from the date of the 10th edition (1758) because in it Linnaeus, for the first time, supplied a binomial system for naming the listed creatures.

The binomial system involves designating a name to an organism using two words. The first word is the generic name, which is shared by all species under the same genus. The second word is the specific name, which is an adjective or a description that can only be applied to a single species within any genus.

Linnaeus' system underwent modifications through the years, but its major outlines still remain.

Today, the rules in classifying animals are governed by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. The rules in naming plants and fungi are governed by the International Association for Plant Taxonomy. ***Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research***


Richalpheus palmeri (New genus and new species)


Acanthanas pusillus (New genus and new species. Length: 6-7 mm)

Sources of [illegible]: Journal of Crustacean Biology (2006) and the Raffles Bulletin of Zoology (2006)

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Young war survivors get schooling

By Aquiles Zonio
Paglat, Maguindanao

HER EYES BEAMED WITH pride and joy as her name was called to receive the award for "Best Learner." She is among the beneficiaries of the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program in Paglat, once a war-stricken area in Maguindanao.

Gina Sapal, 16, was on her second year at the Campo High School in Paglat in 2002 when the siege on the Liguasan Marsh took place. She dropped out of school as her family had to leave the area to avoid getting caught in a crossfire between government soldiers and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels.

Although her family returned after the conflict, Gina, the eldest in a brood of four, didn't get a chance to continue her education as she had to help her parents in farm work.

A rare opportunity came in April last year, when the Notre Dame of Marbel University (NDMU), which is based in Koronadal City, introduced the ALS. The school was inspired by St. Marcellin Champagnat's passion to reach out and serve the poor. (Champagnat is the founder of the Marist Brothers—the largest Order within the Marist family.)

Extension service

The Champagnat Community College (CCC), a community extension arm of the NDMU, went to Paglat to serve the program. A total of 402 people—all high school dropouts—were the beneficiaries.

The town was selected upon the recommendation of local education and local government officials. With a total population of about 15,000, it was among the areas severely affected by the military offensive at the Liguasan Marsh in 2002.

Dr. Alimen Sencil, coordinator of the Education Development Center-Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EDC-EQuALLS) project, identified Paglat as a beneficiary, according to Agnes Reyes, CCC executive director.

Mayor Abdulkarim Langcuno claimed that about 70 percent of the youths in his town stopped going to school during the war. They returned later but the home-school distance, financial constraints, and a fragile peace and order prevented them from attending classes.

The ALS, along with the Marist Technical Training Program (MTTP), Para-Teacher Program and the 1st Farmer College, is among the CCC's extension service projects. The US Agency for International Development provided funding through its EQuALLS project.

Top priority

In the early years of the ALS program, the CCC had met difficulty in promoting education in Paglat. A number of barangay leaders were illiterate, it found out.

A baseline survey conducted by the NDMU showed that of the 402 ALS beneficiaries, 26 percent reached third or fourth year high school, 56 percent were dropouts, and 16 percent were on their first or second year.

On their functional level, 35 percent of them were in the lower elementary, 26 percent in basic, 24 percent in advanced elementary and only 13 percent were in secondary.

The information only showed the need to improve their learning competencies and educational needs, according to the CCC. The ALS, it said, would enhance not only their knowledge but also provide the means for values formation, leadership capability, political maturity and socioeconomic growth.

Community learning centers (CLCs) were put up in eight barangays—Campo, Damakling, Damalusay, Kakal, Poblacion, Salam, Tual and Idtig—where ALS sessions and other activities were held. Each CLC served as a classroom, library and venue for recreation, training and other socioeconomic activities.

Instructional managers (IMs) were hired to manage the centers.

Salome Mantawel, who was adjudged the best instructional manager, says she enjoys helping fellow Muslims get their education and skills. An education graduate in one of the private schools in General Santos City, she receives a monthly salary of P8,000—more than enough to make both ends meet, considering the standard of living in Paglat.

The Damalusay Learning Center, where Mantawel served as an IM, was chosen the best center.

Mayor Langcuno said that with the help of the CCC, the municipal government wanted to instill in the minds of its residents the utmost importance of education in changing the local socioeconomic landscape. After 10 months, he said, the residents began to appreciate the vital role of education in improving their lives.

With a total budget of only about P1.13 million, the ALS program was implemented in two phases. The first, covering April to July 16, 2006, focused more on education, "capacity building" for IMs and other stakeholders, and the construction of the learning centers.

During the second phase from July 16, 2006 to Jan. 31, 2007, the learners were the top priority.

Due to the impact and success of the project, more out-of-school youths were encouraged to take the course.

At present, 187 learners are preparing to take the government's Acceleration and Equivalency (A&E) Test and another 217 for the Philippine Educational Placement Test (PEPT).

Initial capital was also released while assorted seedlings and fingerlings were distributed to each learning site to start the livelihood projects.

The CCC is determined to continue the project for the next three years. It has also decided to intensify the livelihood and income-generating projects to help beneficiaries earn while they learn.

On Recognition Day, Feb. 15, at the Paglat Multi-purpose Building, Tom Crehan, USAID chief of the Office of Education, pledged to continue supporting the ALS program.

Nicanor Torre, program specialist of the Consuelo Foundation, vowed to help provide funds, training sessions and facilities for ALS graduates who want to take short vocational and technical courses.

USAID officials led by Tom Crehan (third from left), USAID chief of office of education, William Potter (center), chief of party of USAID EQuALLS project Phase 2, and Paglat Mayor Abdulkarim Langcuno (standing, second from right) visit the learners and community leaders at Damalusay Learning Center, chosen as the best learning center in Paglat, Maguindanao.

CONTRIBUTED BY JANICE SEVILLA

THE LIGUASAN MARSH

A 1,200-square-kilometer swamp region along the Pulangi River in Central Mindanao. There are fertile rice-growing areas, mangrove forests, a game refuge and bird sanctuary in the area. It is the known territory of the MILF.

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Dy, Albano clans link up to defeat Padaca

DELFIN ALBANO, ISABELA—THE DYS AND THE Albanos, the two dominant political clans in Isabela, have joined forces in a bid to dislodge Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca in the May 14 elections.

Former Gov. Faustino Dy Jr., son of Isabela political patriarch Gov. Faustino Dy Sr. who ruled the province for 22 years, and Rep. Rodolfo Albano III announced on Friday their "unwritten agreement" to support each other in the elections.

Dy, whose gubernatorial bid is supported by the Nationalist People's Coalition, on Friday attended the birthday celebration of Albano III, provincial chair of the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino. Both NPC and Kampi are members of the administration coalition.

Isabela Rep. Anthony Miranda, Kampi spokesperson and regional head, also attended the affair.

Padaca, however, shrugged off the alliance of the Dys and the Albanos.

"Ever since my partnership with Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy began even before 2004, our practice has always been to focus on our own plans, not on others' [plans]," Padaca said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

The gubernatorial fight here will be a reprise of the fight between Dy and Padaca in 2004. In that election, Padaca trounced Dy and ended the latter's rule in the province.

The alliance between Dy and Albano bolstered reports here that the former governor would team up with Albano's brother, Antonio "Tonypet" Albano, as his vice governor.

Representative Albano and Tonypet Albano are sons of Energy Regulatory Commission Chair Rodolfo Albano Jr.

Gamu Mayor Fernando Cumigad, Lakas-CMD Cagayan Valley secretary general, said the party expected the alliance of the Dys and the Albanos.

"We are not keen on supporting former Governor Dy. We are instead giving our support to Governor Padaca despite her being a member of the Liberal Party's Drilon wing," Cumigad said.

In Cagayan, poison letters and newspaper columns hitting politicians appeared in the province in the run-up to the May 14 elections.

A congressman, who is seeking reelection in the third district, lamented the use of malicious letters and a column in a Metro Manila-based tabloid to destroy his name.

The congressman denied allegations that he was supporting left-wing groups and that he was using his pork/barrel to buy guns and bullets.

He called foul the tabloid column that featured an item that accused him of taking advantage of women joining beauty contests in his native Tuao town. *Villamor Visaya Jr. and Estanislao Caldez, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Girl, 7, seeks conquest of Puerto Princesa Bay

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—"I can also do that!"

These were the words of Ana Karenina "Siobe" Dalabajan after watching a 5-year-old boy cross the Mactan Strait in October last year.

Dalabajan, or Siobe to her friends, was only 6 years old when Justin Daniel Junio crossed Mactan Strait last year and was challenged by the boy's feat.

Her father, Dante, said she could not forget it and had since then wanted to do the same.

Siobe will try to cross the Puerto Princesa Bay today on the occasion of the city's 135th founding anniversary.

Siobe, now a Grade 1 student at the Palawan State University, aims to equal, if not surpass, Junio's feat and is now preparing to conquer the more than 5-km stretch of the Puerto Princesa Bay from Barangay Sta. Lucia to the Bay Walk area in Barangay San Isidro, just a few meters from the Puerto Princesa Sea Port.

As part of her preparations, she crossed the 2.5-km stretch between Isla de Caña to the Bay Walk last Dec. 31.

Logging in a time of 1 hour, 12 minutes and 58.37 seconds, Siobe—together with five teammates at the Puerto Princesa Hammerhead Shark Swimming Team (PPHSST)—braved strong winds, waves and current that made their swim more difficult.

"At first, the team was like swimming inside a washing machine," PPHSST coach Danny Egot said.

"It was so difficult that the team was hardly moving during the first 30 minutes," he added.

Swimming with Siobe were Gerrol Castillo, a third year high school student of Palawan State University; Alfie Pilapil, Ivan Pilapil, Jeffrey Pelosa and Jeron Mercader—all students of Palawan National School.

They have been consistent medalists in swimming competitions.

The swim was originally scheduled last Dec. 8, in time for the feast day of this city's patron saint, the Immaculate Conception, but it was put off because of technical problems.

Born on Nov. 4, 1999, Siobe is the youngest of three children of Dante and Cecilia Dalabajan.

Her two sisters are also into swimming. She was only 4 years old when they joined a "Summer Learn to Swim Program" here, about the time when her father was still working in Cebu.

Since then, they learned to love the sport and excelled in it. Sasha, 10, reached the Palarong Pambansa last year while the younger, Isha, 9, made it to the Mimaropa regional athletic meet also last year.

Siobe first earned her medal (silver) in an aquathlon competition in 2004 here when she was only 4 years old.

Last year, she brought home 5 silver medals when she joined the Southern Tagalog Amateur Swimming Association Sprint Meet 2006 held in Calapan City.

SIOBE with her teammates after their swim in preparation for Siobe's conquest of the Puerto Princesa Bay.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

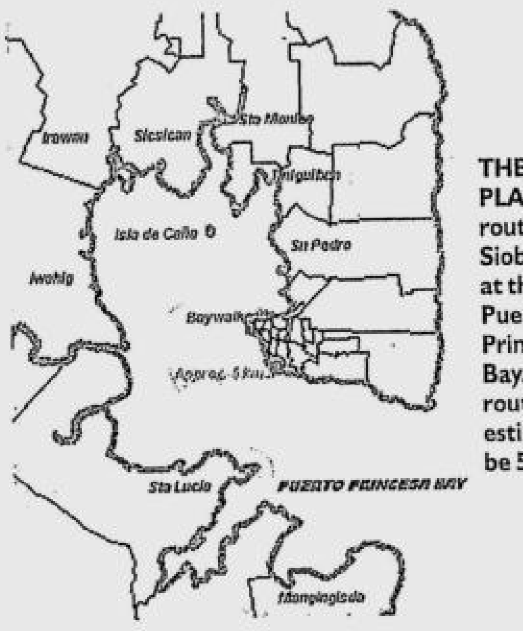
It was also her first competition outside Puerto Princesa, according to her father.

Despite her hectic schedule in training, Siobe manages to maintain her academic excellence since preschool in PSU where she has consistently been an honor student.

She got a 99-percent mark in the School Readiness Test administered by her school, and she got an overall rating of Gifted Ready.

"She knows what she wants to do. And she has focus," Dante said of his youngest daughter. "She always does more than what is expected of her."

Aside from swimming, Siobe, who wants to become a teacher, is also fond of reading books and playing computer games. *Geraldford P. Ticke, Contributor*



THE PLANNED route of Siobe's swim at the Puerto Princesa Bay. It's a route estimated to be 5 km.

Court case key to bid vs illegal online gaming

A CASE PENDING AT A REGIONAL TRIAL court in Angeles City could determine the fate of the government's campaign against illegal Internet-based gambling operations that are gaining popularity.

Pending in court is a case filed by the National Bureau of Investigation, on behalf of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., against British Grand Vision International Co. and TransGlobal Pacific Airways.

The case was filed after the NBI, in November last year, raided online gambling activities allegedly being run by the two companies at a hangar inside the Clark economic zone.

Led by NBI special agent Renato Marcuap, the raid resulted in the confiscation of casino and online gaming paraphernalia that the two companies own.

But obstacles blocked the progress of the case after a court quashed the NBI's request for a search warrant and an Angeles City government prosecutor ruled that the laws against illegal gambling do not punish Internet gaming.

The case is at the sala of Judge Omar Viola of the RTC Branch 57 in Angeles City.

Marcuap and the Pagcor legal team filed a motion for reconsideration against the quashing of the search warrant that was used in the raid.

ROUNDUP

NPAs kill cop, ex-cop

LEGAZPI CITY—Suspected communist assassins shot dead a policeman and an ex-policeman in separate attacks in Masbate and Sorsogon. Six of the gunmen shot dead Senior Supt. Alberto Montecalvo in Masbate on Friday, Supt. Eli Brun, a police spokesperson said. The gunmen took Montecalvo's pistol and his personal belongings before fleeing. In the second attack, a motorcycle-riding gunman shot dead retired policeman Cipriano Lachica in Bulan, Sorsogon.

Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon and AFP

Car thieves shoot cop dead

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Suspected car thieves shot dead a policeman at an antihijacking checkpoint in Mabalacat, Pampanga, on Friday. The four suspects, on board a black Starex van, fled after one of them shot PO2 Alberto Limbaña, 32, in the head at 1 a.m., according to a report here. The attack happened as the police stepped up monitoring in the last two weeks when about 10 cases of car theft were reported in the adjoining Angeles City and Mabalacat town.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

More tourists in Leyte

MAASIN CITY—The number of tourists arriving in the province and city increased by 500 percent last year, according to tourism officials. Tourism officer Nedgar Garvez said the number of local tourists increased from 5,336 in 2005 to 27,700 last year. The number of foreign visitors also rose to 3,189 in 2006, up from 170 two years ago, Garvez said. He said most of the tourists went to noted destinations in the province with Hinunangan town in the Pacific area getting more tourists than the other areas.

Jani Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas

1M tourists a year in Aklan

AKLAN has the potential to attract a million tourists a year with additional direct flights from foreign countries, ex-Sen. Loren Legarda said. In a statement, the opposition senatorial candidate said direct flights from Korea to Aklan would further boost the arrival of Koreans, the top tourists in Boracay, to the province. She said last year, Aklan earned P10.2 billion in tourism. "Imagine if Aklan hits its full tourism potential and attracts over a million visitors each year. The province and its people will have an economic boom that should improve government's provision of basic services, as well as the living conditions of the people," her statement said.

7 die in road crashes

CEBU CITY—Seven people were killed while 13 others were injured in two separate motor accidents in Cebu late Friday and yesterday dawn. A tricycle collided with a light truck in Barangay Dunggu-an, Danao City, some 33 km north of Cebu City, at 10:30 p.m. on Friday, killing five persons and injuring four others. In Minglanilla, 15 km south of Cebu City, a pickup carrying a group of friends fell into a 40-meter deep ravine, resulting in the deaths of two of its passengers. Police said the group in the pickup had just come from a birthday party in Cebu City.

Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas

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Comelec OKs 37 Senate bets, drops 42 others

By Jerome Aning

THE COMMISSION ON Elections has approved the senatorial candidacies of 37 people, at the same time declaring 42 others as nuisance candidates.

In Resolution No. 7832, all six Comelec Commissioners voted on Friday to "give due course" to the certificates of candidacy filed by 34 people running under 13 registered political parties and three others running as independents.

Among those declared nuisance candidates were Danton Remoto, an Ateneo de Manila University professor who claimed to represent the gay community, and engineer Theodore Aquino, a cousin of Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III who claimed to represent overseas Filipinos. Also dropped from the list were those described as "habitual filers," namely, Orlando Abitona, Eduardo Flaminiano, Gherry Guillergan, Daniel Magtira, Manuel Po, Francisco Tajanan and Camilo Tiqui.

Those who made it to the official list were:

- Kilusang Bagong Lipunan: Joselito Cayetano, Melchor Chavez, Antonio Estrella, Oliver Lozano, Eduardo Orpilla, Ruben Enciso and Victor Wood;
- Nationalist People's Coalition: Francis Escudero, Loren Legarda, Vicente Sotto III, Tessie Oreta;
- Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan: Aquilino Pimentel III;
- Lakas-CMD: Michael Defensor, Vicente Magsaysay, Cesar Montano, Prospero Pichay Jr., Ralph Recto, Luis Singson, Juan Miguel Zubiri;
- United Opposition: Panfilo Lacson, John Osmeña, Antonio Trillanes IV;
- Liberal Party: Benigno Aquino III, Francis Pangilinan;
- Ang Kapatiran Party: Martin Bautista, Zosimo Paredes, Adrian Sison;
- Aksyon Demokratiko: Sonia Roco;
- Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino: Joker Arroyo;
- Nacionalista Party: Alan Peter Cayetano, Manuel Villar Jr.;
- Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino: Eduardo Angara;
- Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas: Jamalul Kiram III;
- Philippine Green Republican Party Felix Cantal; and
- Independents: Anna Dominique Coseteng, Richard Gomez, Gregorio Honasan.

The commissioners invoked the body's power to determine whether or not a candidate was a "nuisance," saying they were mindful of the dignity that must be accorded the office of a senator, the minimum qualifications set by the Constitution and electoral laws, the magnitude of the responsibilities of a senator, as well as the candidates' capability to wage a nationwide election campaign.

"There are indications that various certificates were filed to put the election process in mockery or disrepute, or to cause confusion among the voters by the similarity of names of the registered candidates or by other circumstances or acts which clearly demonstrate that the candidate had no bona fide intention to run for the office for which the certificate had been filed and, thus, prevent a faithful determination of the true will of the electorate," the commissioners said.

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POLYTRADER

Project aims to encourage shoppers to care for the environment while earning cash at the same time

NO MEAT or vegetables are sold in this market. Instead, customers trade in their garbage for a chance to make money and do their part in cleaning up the environment. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Unique waste trading mart opens at the mall

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A CUSTOMER exchanges her scrap paper for bond paper, notebooks and other paper products.

IN A UNIQUE REVERSAL OF ROLES, customers of a market that opens only once a month at the SM City Fairview in Quezon City are the ones who stand to make money—and from garbage at that.

Beginning Feb. 24, a waste trading market opened for business at the mall parking lot every last Saturday of the month.

At the waste trading market, people can transact business with recycling companies. They can exchange scrap paper or cardboard for bathroom tissue, table napkins, bond paper and notebooks. They can also trade in empty ink and toner cartridges for quality remanufactured ones while plastic bottles and plastic scraps can be exchanged for plastic household items like hangers, basins, pails and stools.

Customers can also trade in their used lead acid batteries or car batteries for coupons which entitle them to a health checkup.

Environment-friendly

Liza Silerio, SM Supermalls assistant vice president for operations, said they launched the waste trading market as part of their effort to project their malls as "environment-friendly."

"We (have) solid waste management, clean water and clean air (campaigns) in a mall set-up," Silerio told the INQUIRER.

The project, she added, was being implemented in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Philippine Business for the Environment.

Silerio said participating recycling companies would buy junk electrical equipment and old or broken appliances; used lead acid batteries from cars, voltage regulators and busted rechargeable lamps; polyethylene bottles and other plastics; aluminum and tin cans; and used ink and toner cartridges.

"The market also serves as a drop-off area for things that have no value but are considered hazardous such as polystyrene and styrofoam scrap, and junk cell phones and batteries," she added.

According to her, representatives of the DENR will also conduct mini-lectures to educate the public on the importance of waste segregation.

"Our goal is to help the country in the reduction of garbage through recycling," Silerio said.

Make money from garbage

The waste market is expected to help raise the public's awareness of how to make money from garbage, she added.

"So far, people have been very receptive to our project, expressing curiosity on how we do it and a willingness to participate," Silerio said.

Maridon Serrano, HMR Envirocycle purchasing coordinator—one of the participating recycling companies in the waste trade market—said they bought old computer parts and accessories like monitors, central processing units (CPUs), printers, wires and cables, and compact discs at prices ranging from P20 to P120.

"We dismantle, sort, pack and export these old computer units and other appliances such as televisions, microwave ovens and refrigerators," Serrano said. Used lead acid batteries, on the other hand, could be sold for P268 each. These are batteries used in automobiles, emergency lights and industrial equipment, according to Steve Ofilanda of Philippine Recyclers Inc., another participating firm.

Proper disposal

"It is important for everyone to know that improper disposal of lead acid batteries can contaminate water supply," Ofilanda said, warning that the batteries' lead content could cause illnesses and physical defects.

Empty ink cartridges at the market sell for P20-P300, depending on the printer model. "We inspect and test the cartridges before shipping them to our plant in Subic," Lyn Garcia, marketing manager of YGARC Trading, said.

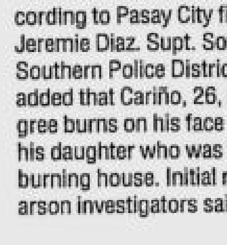
Garcia said the used cartridges would be dismantled, cleaned, refilled and relabeled at the Subic plant.

SM Supermalls officials said waste trading markets would be held on March 17 at the SM Southmall in Las Piñas City and on April 14 at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

"We want the waste markets to be a regular sight in our malls to encourage shoppers to help the environment while earning cash at the same time," Silerio said.

METROBRIEFS

3-year-old girl killed in Pasay fire; father injured



A FIREMAN carries Samantha's body.

A MID-MORNING fire broke out in a residential compound in Pasay City yesterday, killing a 3-year-old girl and injuring her father. Arson investigators were still investigating at press time the cause of the blaze that started in Allan Cariño's house on P. Santos Street in Malibay, Pasay. The fire, which began at around 10:15 a.m. yesterday, killed his daughter, Samantha, who sustained severe burns all over her body, according to Pasay City fire marshal Roel Jeremie Diaz. Supt. Sofia Mendoza, Southern Police District fire marshal, added that Cariño, 26, suffered first degree burns on his face while trying to save his daughter who was trapped inside the burning house. Initial reports from Pasay arson investigators said the blaze began inside Allan's room on the second floor of the house before spreading to five other houses inside the compound. Firefighters were able to put out the fire at 12:48 p.m. Damage to property was placed at P500,000.

Julie M. Aurelio

QC protecting kids' rights

THE QUEZON City government has created a welfare body to strengthen the implementation of children's rights, particularly minors who are in conflict with the law. Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. created the Local Council for the Protection of Children, which would serve as the umbrella organization incorporating all program committees for children in the city, during an organizational meeting last week. Belmonte, the chair of the council, named Business Permit and Licensing Office chief Pacifico Maghacot as co-chair, with the City Planning and Development Office as the secretariat. He also urged the 800 nongovernment organizations in the city to get involved in the program and "to look for areas which are not properly covered in addressing the issue." At the same time, Belmonte ordered Maghacot and social welfare department Teresa Mariano to spearhead the conduct of a study to ensure that the functions of children committees do not overlap.

Margaux C. Ortiz

Makati City all set for Fire Prevention Month

THE MAKATI fire department will conduct house-to-house inspections in the city to look for fire hazards and identify problem areas in the hope of improving its response time to fires. Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has ordered city fire marshal Insp. Jose Embang Jr. to prioritize low-income areas among the city's 33 barangays in the conduct of the inspections. Binay said these areas include the Macda compound in Cembo, Laperal compound in Guadalupe Viejo, the stretch of Davila in La Paz, and the alleys in Barangay Singkamas, where houses stand close together. "We should prioritize these areas in our inspections. The structures in these places pose a very high risk to the people and the community," Binay said in a statement released the other day. He also directed barangay officials and the department of engineering and public works to assist in the inspection.

DJ Yap

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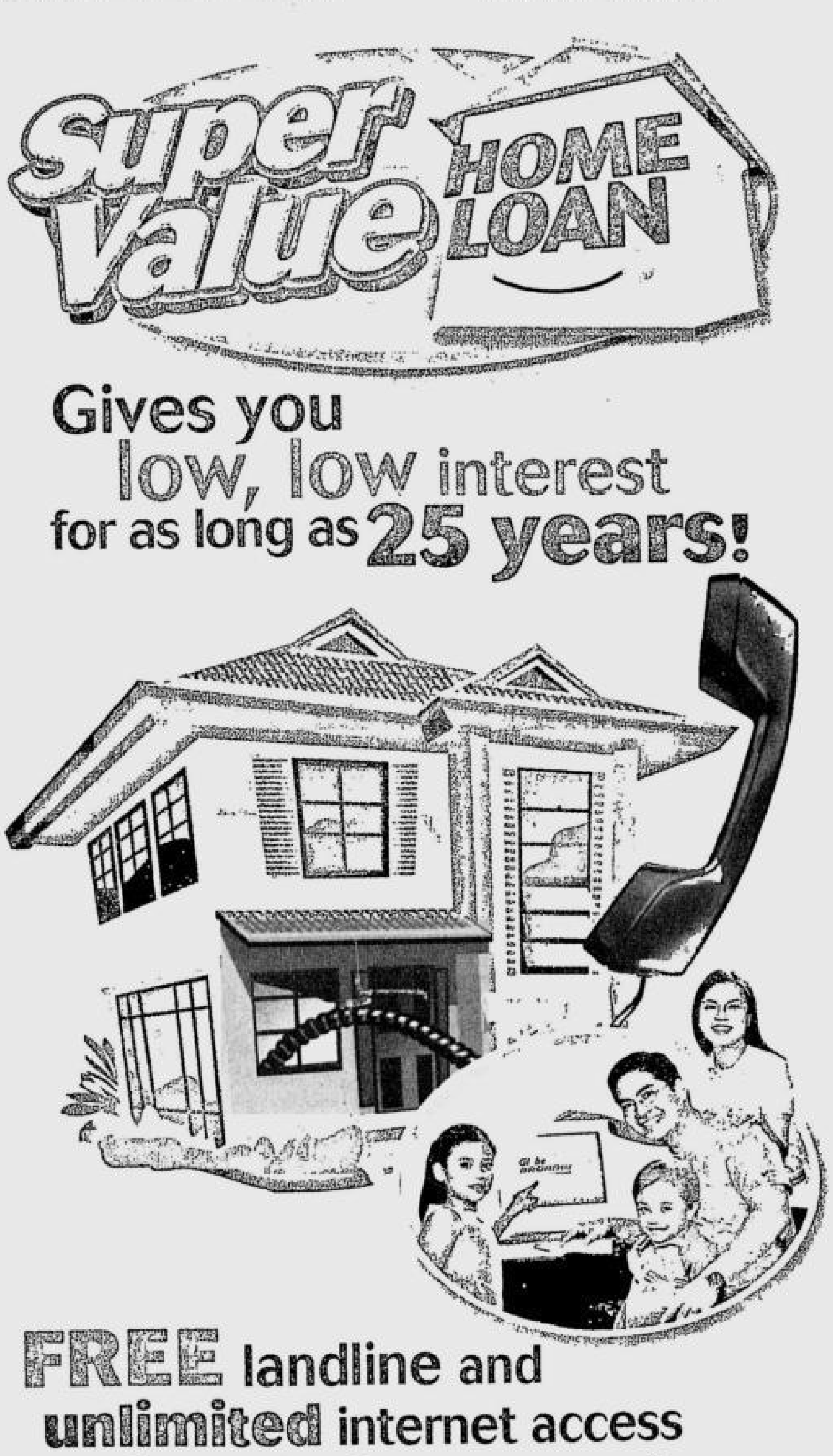

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Ex-DH wins seat in Italian town council

NORMA MACALINDONG with husband Jesus (above) at their *sari-sari* store on Viale Pinturicchio at Plaza Mancini in Rome: "This is for my children. I will continue fighting for the rights of Filipinos to be here."

By Emman Cena and Karlo Jose R. Pineda

IN POLITICS, THE PHILIPPINES AND ITALY ARE worlds apart. Unlike in the Philippines, a campaign sortie in Rome, Italy, is not star-studded. There is no criss-crossing of partylines. No campaign jingles. No circus.

But there is one thing in common: Both Filipino and Italian politicians spend a lot to get elected.

Take it from businesswoman Norma Macalindong, a 46-year-old Batangueña based in Rome. She was elected councilor or *consiglieri*, representing the migrants community in Municipio 2 in Rome, only last December.

But Macalindong says she only spent "some thousands" to oil her campaign during the December polls for migrants.

"In fact, I only stayed home while an ongoing counting was held," she tells the INQUIRER in unmistakably Batangueño accent. "My five opponents even had 'grand *pakain*' and rented vehicles to fetch the voters."

She had only managed to tour around town handing out her fliers and posters, she says. No monkey business involved.

"I was startled," she tells the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "My colleagues were earlier telling me that I would probably lose my bid since my opponents were literally courting the voters when what I could only do was shake their hands."

She refuses to reveal how much she had shelled out for her candidacy, except to say "it was way, way little" compared to others.

2 Filipinas

The local elections in Rome were held on Dec. 5 wherein she garnered the highest votes among the Filipino candidates. She and her winning colleagues were sworn into office five days later.

Filipinos took seven out of 20 contested seats. Two of the seven seats went to Filipino women. Macalindong was one of them.

Elected and sworn in also as *consiglieris* for the other *municipios* were Joselito Ramirez for Municipio I; Romeo Ramos for Municipio 9; Rachel Gutierrez Dolor for Municipio 7; Conrado Dolor for Municipio 15; Pia Gonzales for Municipio 16; and Demetrio Rafanan for Municipio 20.

As *consiglieres*, they play an important consultative role in the formulation of policies for foreign residents. They help the local government in drafting plans targeted at delivering the rights due for migrants.

Her being president of Mancini Club, an organization of Filipino businesswomen, most of them store owners, in Piazza Mancini, worked to her advantage.

"I am actually a mother to most Filipinos here—helping them process their papers for business and staying permits," she says.

"My fellow Filipinos and other Italian officials cajoled me to run to further my service in the community. They say that I have a great chance of winning, having established good relations with other Filipinos and people from other races."

Joining politics, however, was not in her to-do list when she went to Rome in 1984 at the age of 24. She was first a domestic helper turned businesswoman, and now a politician.

11 children

On her first day at the municipal hall, she could only stare at her fellow officials debating on various laws and ordinances.

"It was actually a difficult day," she recalls. "I had to study all the SOPs so as not to look stupid, although I could speak Italian."

She is a mother of 11 children, seven of whom are living with her in Rome while four are in Batangas raising their own families. "There was no luck for me in the Philippines so I decided to take chances abroad," she recalls.

On her first few months in Italy, she cleaned and scrubbed floors and sold Filipino food and products in her free time at Termini or the Central Train Station in Rome, and at Risorgimento, or the tram stations.

"I could not look for an office job here since I only finished third year of high school," she says.

By some twist of fate, her sideline of selling food grew into a larger business enterprise in 1998: A convenience store sitting on Viale Pinturicchio at Plaza Mancini.

"It all started when I became president of the Mancini club," she recalls. "We would all spend our days selling Filipino food near Piazza Mancini, there under the bridge, everyday."

Birth of 'sari-sari' store

She says she realized that Filipinos thriving in a land faraway from home miss the salty treat of the *tuyo-itlog na pula* combo or the tangy add-on taste of *bagoong*.

Apparently the "sari-sari" store, the Philippine version of a one-stop shop, makes life easier for the average Filipino. This goes especially with his sudden cravings for food, from the chips and crackers for merienda to canned goods and instant soups during supper, she says. And it was not long before Macalindong took notice of this, daringly setting up Norma's International Food Store in Rome.

Macalindong's store offers various goods, from softdrinks to dried goods to husked rice, and some Filipino products. Her husband, Jesus, a driver in Batangas soon followed her in Italy to help run the store.

"Surprisingly, we now have more South American customers than Filipinos although, of course, Filipinos patronize what we sell," she says.

Selling soon became the couple's main livelihood.

Envious Pinoys

"This is all for my children," she says. "I have many [children] so I make even the night a working day just to assure their future. With the store, I do hope to feed them and also send them to decent schools." When one of them is not around, Macalindong's in-law takes over.

But the business venture was not as easy as she imagined, she says. "It was definitely a hard endeavor, with people trying to pull you down, perhaps because of envy."

In 1993, Macalindong completed her high school (terza media) and was finally granted a license to operate business from the Camera di Commercio. "I was schooled for a year and four months while still selling goods illegally because I had no permit then."

Last year, Macalindong was awarded as an outstanding Overseas Filipino Entrepreneur by the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship, a recognition given by PCE as part of the Go Negosyo Para sa mga OFWs at Balikbayans. The award was handed by PCE founding trustee Jose Concepcion III and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself.

New venture

The Macalindongs have also started an export business in the Philippines, managed by one of their children. The Las Piñas-based Macalindong Export-Import was established to chop off the expenses of importing and exporting.

"We started off with a total of three shipments," she says. For the moment, I'm only supplying our store. I will accommodate other stores in neighboring countries given the right time and the chance."

She has also put up computer shops and restaurants. She has bought for her family four cars in Rome and another four in Batangas.

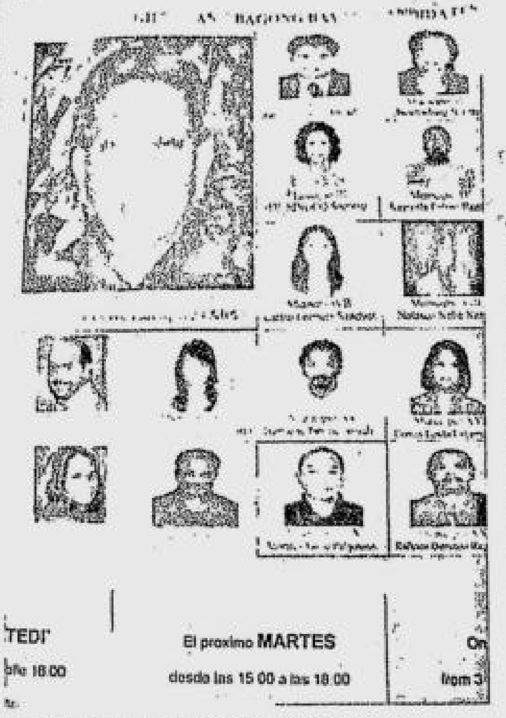
"When you're that passionate in what you're doing, and you believe that God is by your side, there is just no breaking you down," she says.

Macalindong says she only hopes the Filipinos in Rome be given equal opportunities to enjoy their rights.

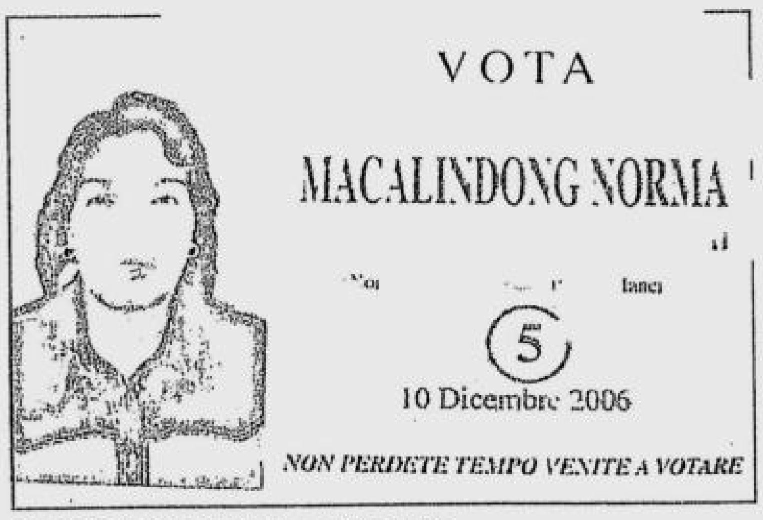
Her ultimate dream, she adds, is to go home and settle down in her native land come the right time. One reason why she wants to go home is Kris Aquino. Macalindong, who is set to visit the country this month, says she wants to join Aquino's "Deal or No Deal" game show on ABS-CBN Channel 2.

"I regularly watch it at home (through the Filipino Channel) and I would want to try it myself," she says.

With her joining in the local politics, the daughter of a fish vendor and farmer has really gone a long way. "I will continue to fight for our rights here before I go back to Batangas for good," she says.



15-PERSON ticket to the Italian town council; Seven Filipinos, including Norma, took seven of the 20 contested seats.



VOTA

MACALINDONG NORMA

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NON PERDETE TEMPO VENITE A VOTARE

CAMPAIGN FLYER: To the point, no frills.

Taking care of HK kids can be emotionally burdensome

By Isabel T. Escoda
Contributor

HONG KONG—A FILIPINA nanny working in the same district where I live phoned me one night and asked in low tones, "Can you help me with this homework for my kid?" Fely was referring to her employer's 12-year-old daughter Mei-ling whom she has been caring for since she was an infant. She had called me because she knows I teach English to young Hong Kong students. She read me some questions Mei-ling was supposed to answer and I helped as best I could, but I asked why the child didn't ask her parents to help since I figured they knew some English (Fely had told me the mother works in a bank and the father, in a commercial firm).

"Mei-ling doesn't want her mother to know about this because she keeps getting scolded for not knowing her lessons," Fely said. "Yesterday when she wasn't feeling well enough to go to school, her mother entered our room and shouted at her to get out of bed and stop malingering. When the kid refused, the mother pulled her hand and bit her fingers really hard. I yelled at her to stop, but she kept abusing the child. The woman has high blood pressure."

Getting suicidal

Fely has been telling me for some time about this ill treatment of the girl by her mother. To all intents and purposes she is like a surrogate mother to Mei-ling and her younger sister (who, at 9, seems to have avoided her mother's regular bouts of rage).

During her 11 years with the family, Fely has lived with the two girls on the first floor of a building while the parents use the second floor. She shares the girls' bedroom and has meals with them and serves the parents separately upstairs—there is little contact between parents and children. Whenever either girl gets sick at school, it's Fely who fetches her and takes her to the doctor. She says she has long ceased to be appalled at the mother's lack of maternal feelings (the father has absolutely nothing to do with their upbringing).

What upsets Fely most is Mei-ling's constant depression which sometimes turns into a wish to kill herself. She has threatened to run away from home but is cajoled and comforted by Fely who says the child begs her not to leave early on her days off and to return early.

Whenever Fely is at Mass or among friends on Sundays, Mei-ling often phones asking her to come home. Whenever she takes her holiday every two years to return to Isabela, she says Mei-ling cries bitterly. This heart-rending situation makes Fely wonder if she should report it to Hong Kong's social service department that deals with child abuse, but she fears she may lose her job.

Until the situation for growing numbers of Hong Kong children improves, Filipinas like Fely will be needed to be their protectors.

Hong Kongers who shake their heads and shudder at the latest news of school shootings in the US have had much to shudder about on the homefront lately.

A Kowloon couple was recently jailed for having caused the death of their 10-year-old son whom they had locked in a suitcase for two hours. They admitted to often having punished him in this manner whenever he refused to do his homework. Furious at his obstinacy one day, they kept him sealed in the case for longer than usual, causing his fatal asphyxiation.

Not long afterwards, a young mother in the New Territories grew so angry at her 7-year-old daughter for not doing her homework that she took a kitchen knife and slashed the girl's hand, practically severing her middle finger. She later said it had been accidental, but too many cases of child abuse are reported in this city, making such occurrences no longer seem rare.

Hong Kong newspapers often carry reports of unfortunate incidents like these, and after the girl's slashing recently, the largest English-language newspaper, the South China Morning Post, published a shocking survey taken by a Catholic family crisis center. It reported on the imprecations that parents have directed at their children, like "Go away! I don't want to see you anymore!" "I hate you—I'm not your mother!" "You're so stupid, do you have a brain?" "How come you're so useless—look at other children, they do so well!" "I'd rather have given birth to roasted pork than to you!"

Cruel parents

Given the fact that a growing number of parents seem to be exhibiting these cruel attitudes, it's easy to understand why suicides among Hong Kong's youth have been increasing. One report said the numbers may eventually catch up with the suicide rate among young Japanese.

A UN study shows that corporal punishment is one of many forms of violence against children in all parts of the world. Some countries have laws forbidding such treatment, but 106 countries allow corporal punishment in schools, and institutions like orphanages permit beatings in 145 countries.

The WHO reports that an average of 53,000 children die from violence each year. However, in spite of the gun violence in US schools (they have also occurred in the UK and Russia), an overall improvement in the treatment of children is seen around the world. Countries like Austria and the Scandinavian countries have passed laws protecting children from maltreatment in schools, homes and penal systems, and 16 states in the US have prohibited corporal punishment in their public schools.

In the face of the present situation that potentially could damage its image as a civilized metropolis, Hong Kong recently launched a mental health program to train secondary school teachers to help students deal with depression and suicidal tendencies. Obviously such a program should also be aimed at Hong Kong parents.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Lovelorn astronaut won't face murder charge

ORLANDO, FLA.—Astronaut Lisa Nowak, who stunned colleagues by driving from Houston to Orlando in a diaper to confront a woman she thought was a love rival, was charged with attempted kidnapping but not with attempted murder on Friday, prosecutors said.

The former space shuttle crew member also was formally charged on Friday with battery and using a weapon to attempt a car break-in. She is accused of pepper spraying the girlfriend of fellow astronaut Bill Oefelien, the prosecutors in Orlando said in a news release.

NASA Astronaut Lisa Nowak during a news conference (left) following the landing of the space shuttle Discovery on July 17, 2006 and following her arrest in Orlando, Florida on Feb. 5, 2007. REUTERS

Shortly after Nowak was arrested on Feb. 6, police said she was trying to kill US Air Force Capt. Colleen Shipman. The police then charged Nowak, 43, with attempted first-degree murder, which carried a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

But the murder accusation was dropped without explanation when prosecutors brought the formal charges almost a month later. The prosecutors declined to comment.

In February, Nowak's lawyer, Donald Lykkebak furiously accused police of adding the attempted murder charge at the last minute in order to delay Nowak's release on bail. Orlando Police Sgt. Barbara Jones denied that police tried to manipulate the system.

"The charges we brought forward, we believed the elements were there," Jones said. "We do the probable cause and they (prosecutors) have to decide the formal charges and what can they prove beyond a reasonable doubt and these are the charges."

Nowak, who has three children and recently separated from her husband, was freed on bail and allowed to return to her home in Houston. She was ordered to stay away from the Florida county where Shipman lives and was fitted with a global positioning device so authorities can track her movements.

Police said Nowak, a flight engineer who made her first trip into space in July to the International Space Station aboard shuttle Discovery, sped the 1,530 km from Houston to Orlando wearing diapers so she would not have to stop at a bathroom.

She disguised herself in a dark wig, glasses and trench coat to confront Shipman at Orlando International Airport but told police she "only wanted to scare" the woman into talking to her.

Nowak waited for Shipman's flight from Houston to arrive and then followed her to the parking garage armed with pepper spray, a steel mallet and a pellet gun, police said. *Reuters*

SOOTHING THE AUTISTIC

An autistic boy gets a surfboard ride from Adam Paskowitz at Alii Beach Park in Haleiwa, Hawaii, March 2. Professional surfers from Hawaii and California spent the day teaching dozens of autistic children in a one-day surf camp sponsored by Surfers Healing, a group founded by Paskowitz's brother, former professional surfer Israel Paskowitz, after he noticed the calming effect the ocean had on his own autistic son. AP

Anna Nicole Smith finally laid to rest in the Bahamas

NASSAU—FORMER PLAYBOY MODEL AND billionaire's widow Anna Nicole Smith was finally laid to rest at a pink-splashed funeral in the Bahamas Friday, following three weeks of legal battles over her body.

Pallbearers carried the pink-draped coffin over a red carpet into a flower-festooned church for a ceremony attended by some 300 invited guests.

Later, a crowd of Bahamians sang hymns as the hearse entered a Nassau cemetery where green tents provided privacy to the few dozen mourners allowed at the graveside, and police, smartly clad in white tunics and pith helmets, ensured everyone else stayed out.

The private ceremonies followed bitter legal battles over custody of the body that in life had won Smith Playboy fame and a marriage to an 89-year-old billionaire.

A throng of Bahamians, tourists and media crushed behind police barriers as the white coffin was carried into the Mount Horeb Baptist Cathedral in Nassau.

The church was reportedly filled with pink roses, and sources close to the funeral said Smith's body was clad in a beaded gown and tiara.

The mourners includes Smith's estranged mother Virgie Arthur, her longtime companion Howard K. Stern and former boyfriend Larry Birkhead.

The body was flown to the Bahamas on a private plane early Friday, after courts in south Florida gave the go-ahead for the burial.

Arthur wanted her daughter to be buried in her native Texas but Stern insisted the late model had expressed the desire to be put to rest alongside her son, who died in the Bahamas in September at the age of 20.

A Florida appeals court on Wednesday upheld a ruling that favored a Bahamas burial.

"This she chose as her final resting place," said Florida lawyer Richard Millstein, who was given custody of the body after a court appointed him to represent the interests of Smith's 5-month-old daughter in the legal dispute.

"Today we share our grief with all of you," he said.

Speaking to the crowd outside the church, Millstein asked the media to respect the decorum of the occasion so Smith could finally have a dignified burial.

Authorities in Florida have yet to disclose what caused Smith to pass out and die in a Florida hotel room on Feb. 8, at the age of 39. *AFP*

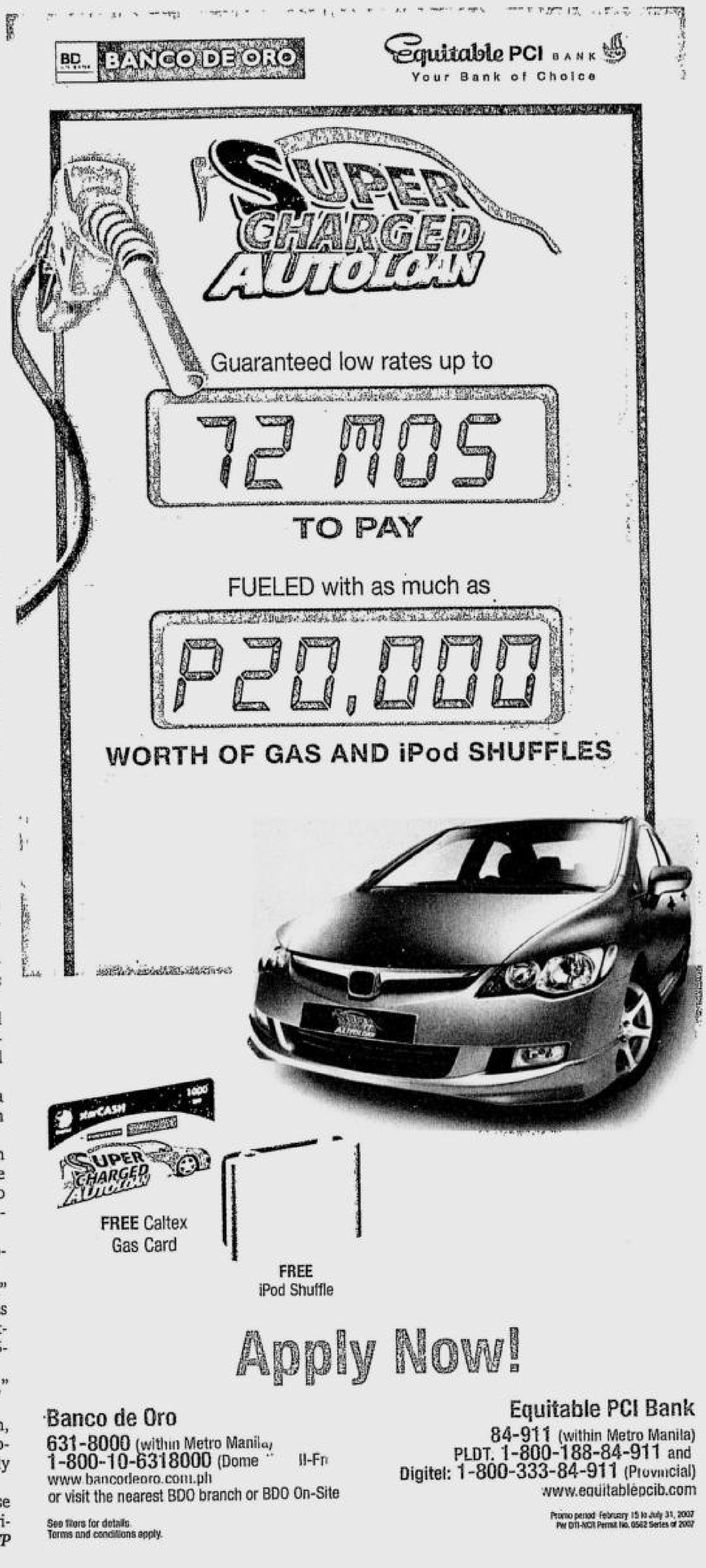
WORLDBRIEFS

US: New Iran sanctions to be 'incremental'

WASHINGTON—Senior US and European officials indicated Friday that new UN sanctions being drawn up against Iran to curb its nuclear program will involve only a relatively minor tightening of measures imposed by the world body in December. "This is going to be an incremental resolution," said state department spokesperson Sean McCormack. "It will be proportionate to the response that the Iranians have given the international community to this point," he told reporters as diplomats from the big five UN Security Council states plus Germany pursued talks on the new resolution. McCormack would not go into detail on the new sanctions being considered in light of Iran's refusal to comply with the December resolution demanding it suspend a uranium enrichment program that can also be used to develop nuclear weapons. But a senior US official said the resolution would not include significant new punitive measures but would rather extend targeted measures against firms and individuals involved with Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. *AFP*

Fayed triumph: Jury to hear Diana inquest

LONDON—A British court ruled Friday that the inquest into the 1997 death of princess Diana will be heard by a jury, in a victory for her boyfriend's father, who claims an establishment plot killed the couple. The high court ruling, overturning the coroner's previous decision to hold it alone, came after a legal challenge from Egyptian-born tycoon Mohamed Al Fayed, the father of Dodi Fayed, who died with Diana in a Paris car crash. Fayed, the millionaire owner of London department store Harrods and Premiership football club Fulham, welcomed the judgement as "an important step" and pledged to abide by any finding made by the 12-member jury. *AFP*



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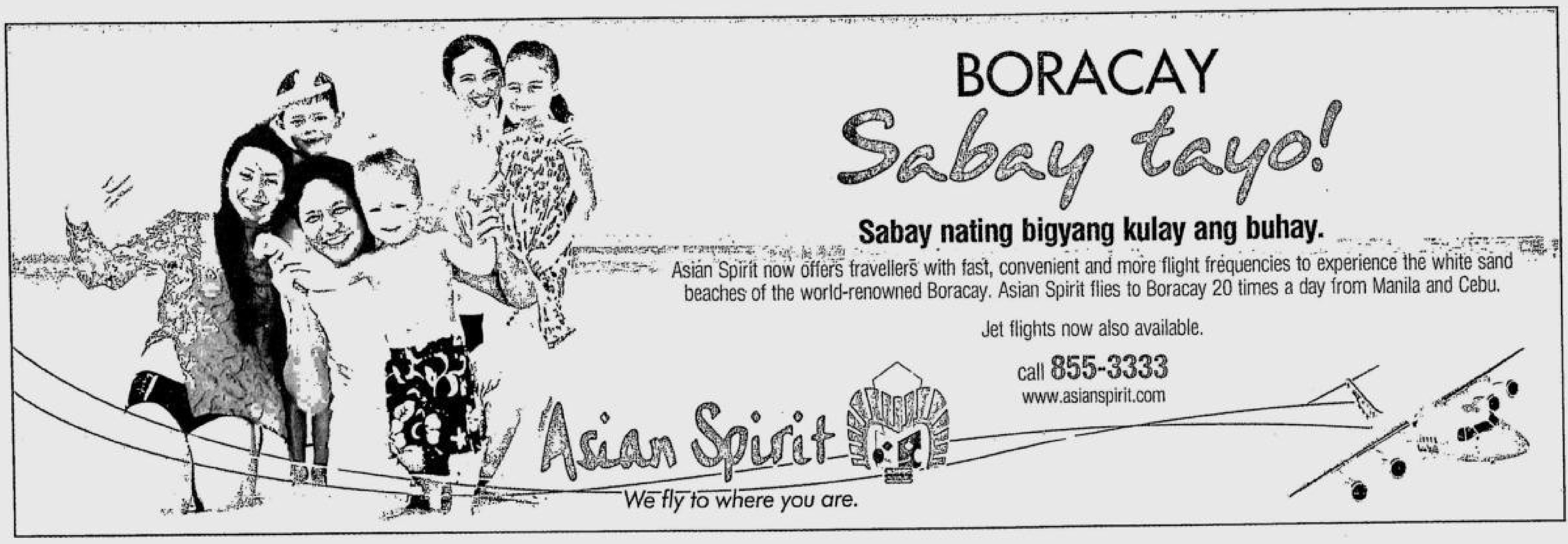

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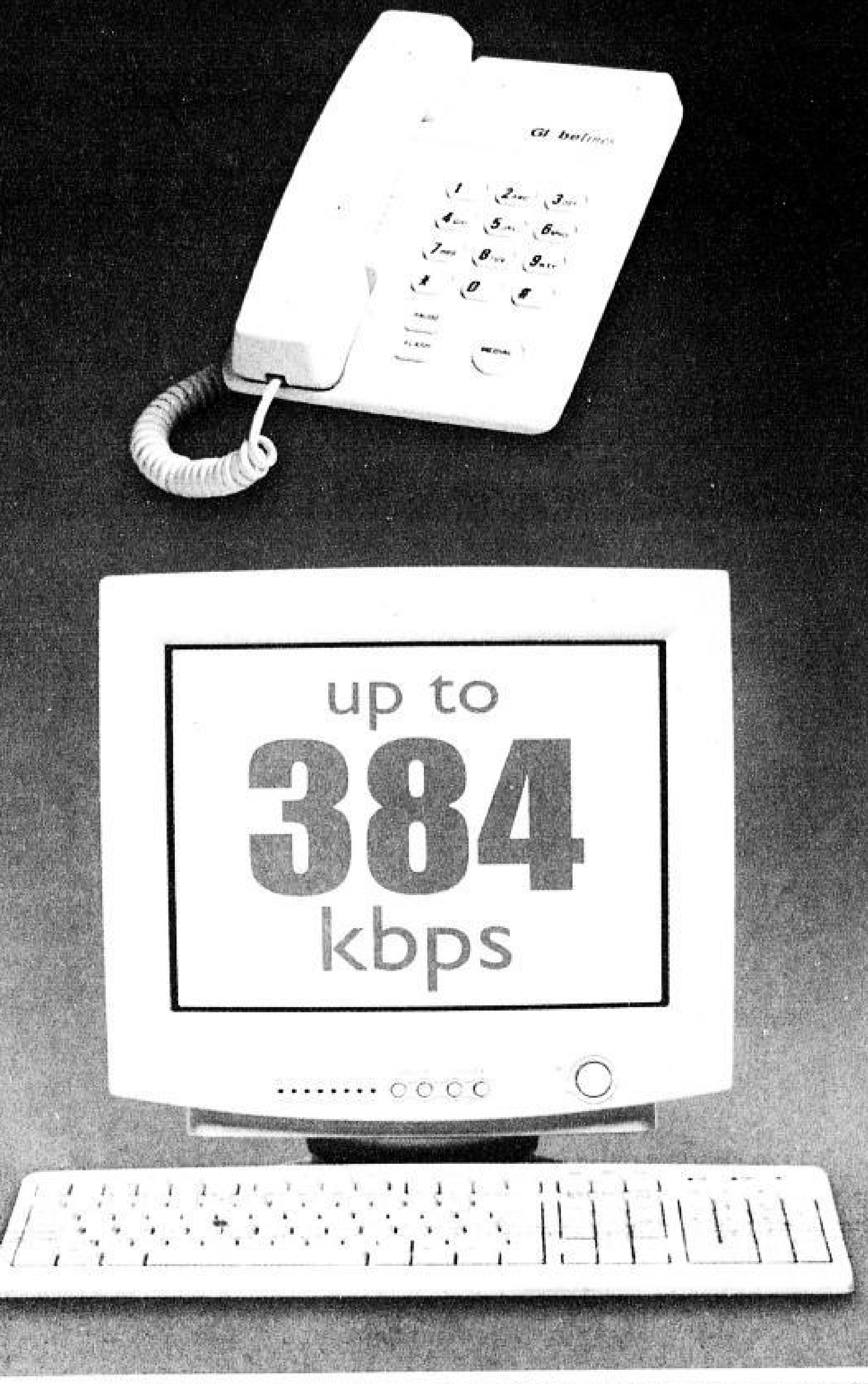

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Sunday SPORTS

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Kiamco rules US Bar Table /A25

Barako open Fiesta Cup defense vs TJ Giants

RED BULL import James Penny (front) and Purefoods counterpart Marquin Chandler won't be reliving their rivalry just yet. At least, not until Chandler gets healthy enough to return to action for the Tender Juicy Giants. INQUIRER PHOTO

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:05 p.m.—Welcoat vs. Coca-Cola
6:35 p.m.—Purefoods vs. Red Bull

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED TO RED BULL SINCE WINNING the Fiesta Cup last year.

The Barako lost Lordy Tugade to a lopsided trade and then Mick Pennisi to the National Team just a couple of weeks back, making their defense of the import-spiced tournament starting today doubly hard.

"I guess it's pretty wide open," coach Yeng Guiao told the INQUIRER over the phone of this year's Talk 'N Text Fiesta Cup. "It's too early to tell how this team will perform."

James Penny returns for a second tour of duty, and will be plugging two important slots in the team with Pennisi out.

"He (Penny) is not a flashy import who posts big numbers, but he does almost all the things needed for his team to win," Guiao said. "He's gotten better since last year and that gives us confidence going into the tournament."

The Barako slug it out with last year's runner-up Purefoods in the 6:35 p.m. contest at the Cuneta Astrodome, with the Tender Juicy Giants using Jesse King for the time being while they await Marquin Chandler's return to health.

Chandler, who won the Best Import award over Penny last year, is already in town, but the coaching staff will use King in the first couple of weeks to allow Chandler's MCL tear to completely heal.

Red Bull, which closed out Purefoods and Chandler in six games of the title series last year, will be coming off a fourth place finish in the Philippine Cup after losing in seven games to San Miguel in the semifinals.

Junthy Valenzuela, Larry Fonacier and Celino Cruz will be the main locals for Guiao, while the Giants will rely mostly on James Yap to provide help for King with Jun Limpot and Marc Pingris injured and Kerby Raymundo on loan to the RP five.

Welcoat and Coca-Cola, which finished in the last two spots of the Philippine Cup, clash in the 4:05 p.m. game with both parading potentially explosive imports.

The Dragons actually have two reinforcements as Alex Compton makes his long-awaited PBA debut after the league allowed Welcoat to beef up by signing their erstwhile assistant coach. Charles Colonel Clark suits up for Welcoat while Coca-Cola parades Anthony Johnson. *Musong R. Castillo*

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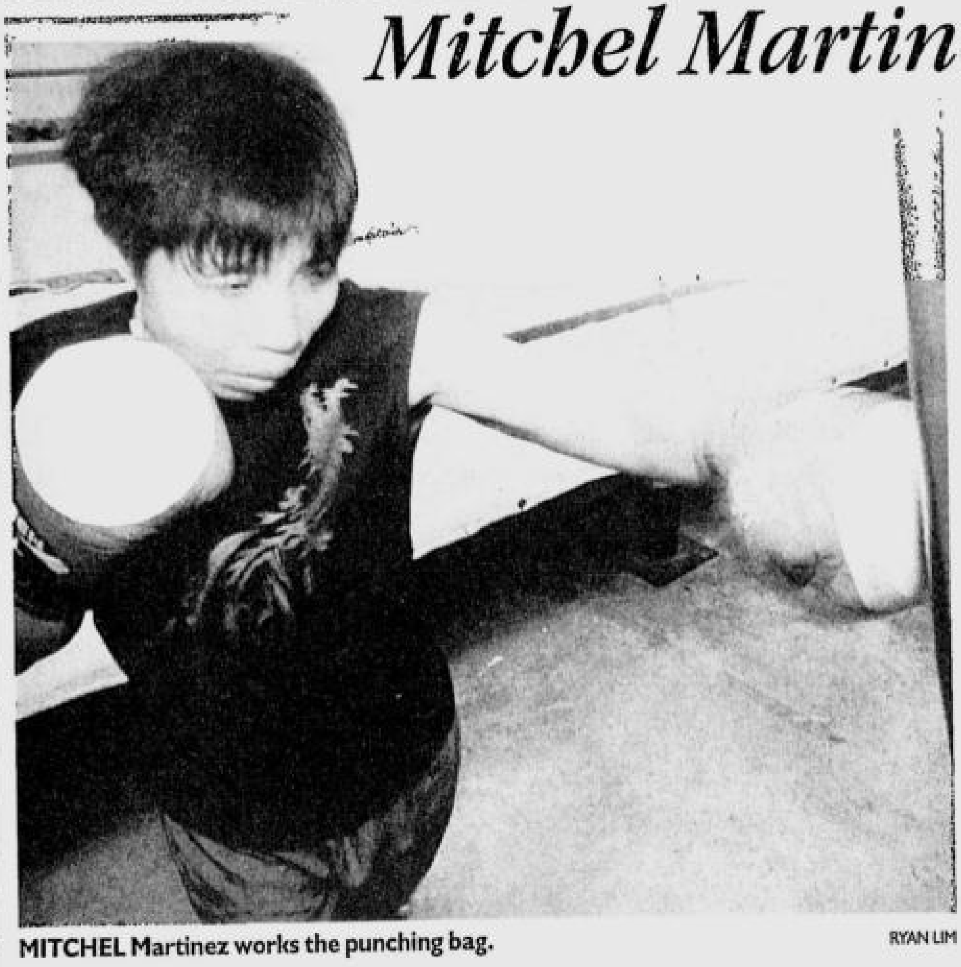
Mitchel Martinez: Throwing shots like no other


MITCHEL Martinez works the punching bag. RYAN LIM

By June Navarro

ALL RING GLADIATORS HAVE grand targets and becoming the next Manny Pacquiao is among them.

But for Mitchel Martinez, it's something else.

The most bemedalled puncher in the women's national boxing team thinks helping her family takes precedence over all others. The second eldest in a brood of seven, Martinez is particularly proud that her siblings were able to go to school through her ring prowess.

"My brothers earned college degrees because of my boxing," said Martinez, a police officer for the past nine years based in Camp Crame now with the rank of SPO1.

Younger brothers, Roberto Jr. and Ryan, now have stable jobs while the youngest sister, Syrabelle, 17, is a freshman at De La Salle-Bacolod taking up BS Education.

Roberto Jr. is now based in Canada working for McDonalds and Ryan, who finished a nautical marine degree, is a full-fledged seaman.

"Life was difficult back then. But with two of my brothers helping me support the family, the burden has become lighter," said Martinez.

Her father, Roberto Sr., lost his job in 1991, prompting Martinez to help provide for the needs of the family at a young age.

Martinez was lucky to become a track and field scholar at De La Salle-Bacolod, where she was discovered and elevated to the national track and field team after winning the gold medal in shotput during the 1995 Philippine National Games in Manila.

When the hard times were over, Martinez's parents put up a small eatery in Bacolod City through the earnings of their daughter from the national track and field team and police force.

Then, the abrupt shift from track and field to boxing happened.

Martinez, used to heaving iron-cast balls on the field, found herself wearing gloves one morning in 2001 when boxing started its search for female fighters.

"Boxing is my favorite sport. So when the chance came, I grabbed the opportunity," said the 30-year-old Martinez.

The move made Martinez an instant celebrity in the sport.

Entered as a light flyweight (60kgs), Martinez won the gold in the First Asian Championships in 2001 held in Bangkok. She picked up a silver medal in the 2004 Taiwan International Boxing Championships and returned a year later to win a gold in the 2005 Taiwan Asian Championships.

After copping the bronze in the 2005 World Championships held in Moscow Martinez emerged the best fighter in her category during the Southeast Asian Games here two years ago.

The Philippines nearly swept the golds in women's boxing with four victories out of five events. Besides Martinez, Alice Kate Aparri (46 kgs), Annie Albana (50 kgs) and Jovelit Chilen (54 kgs) also won.

With an eye on the SEA Games in Thailand later this year, the five will represent the country in the Amit Comert, one of the topnotch tournaments in women's boxing after the world championships to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in May.

Taekwondo star's 2-year suspension lifted by ITF

SINGSON

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ESTHER MARIE SINGSON HAS JUST BEEN given a chance to redeem herself.

The taekwondo jin, who was stripped of her 2005 Southeast Asian Games gold medal after testing positive for a banned substance, is back in harness after the international taekwondo federation (ITF) lifted the suspension imposed on her two years ago, according to the Philippine Taekwondo Association yesterday.

National head coach Stephen Fernandez confirmed that the suspension was lifted late last year, allowing Singson to again compete in tournaments.

For the 20-year-old Singson, the reinstatement is a motivating force for her to train extra hard and prove her detractors wrong. She is now training three times a week with the national squad.

"I've never really stopped training," said Singson, who was suspended after she was found to have used diuretics during the customary dope test for SEAG medalists.

When asked to recall what substance she took, Singson politely declined to answer and said: "I want to forget everything about it and instead focus on the present."

She is currently training to make it to the national team for the Thailand SEA Games where Singson said she'll try "to get back the gold medal that I truly deserve."

A senior education student at the University of Santo Tomas, Singson said she is bent on spending her time training this summer.

Fernandez said he had welcomed Singson back in the RP team fold, adding that the association didn't lose faith and confidence in its top fighter.

Sterne leads 'JW'; Goosen concedes

PHUKET, THAILAND—SOUTH AFRICA'S Richard Sterne fired a second consecutive 64 to take a one stroke lead into the final round of the Johnnie Walker Classic Saturday as countryman Retief Goosen conceded defeat.

Sterne started the tournament with a three-over-par 75 and looked a safe bet to miss the cut but a 64 on Friday propelled him up the leaderboard and a repeat performance Saturday put him in front.

He is 13 under par, one ahead of England's Oliver Wilson.

Three South Africans fill the top five positions with Anton Haig in third, two shots adrift, and Goosen in fifth at eight under par.

New Zealand's Richard Lee is at nine under.

World number five Ernie Els bounced back after a disappointing first two rounds with a 67 to be seven shots behind. *AFP*

Tagaytay-RP chessers whip Iraq

TEHRAN, IRAN—TAGAYTAY-RP STARTed its title-retention campaign in the 15th Asian Cities Chess Team Championship-Dubai Cup with a 3.5-0.5 beating of 11th seed Sulamania (Iraq) at the Eran Grand Hotel here Friday.

Shaking off the tiring 10-hour trip from Manila to this Iranian capital, the Filipinos struck on victories by GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. and IMs Wesley So and Oliver Dimakiling.

Antonio, the only remnant of the Tagaytay team which bagged the championship in Tagaytay City in 2004, beat Abdul Sattar Ahmed after a marathon 72 moves of the Sicilian.

The 13-year-old So, the youngest Filipino ever to see action in the Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy, last year, outclassed Sabid Majid Ares, while Dimakiling whipped Saleh Zolek on boards three and four.

Only GM Mark Paragua failed to extract the full point when he settled for a draw with IM Aziz Ahmad.

The Filipinos are tied with three others with 3.5 points in the nine-round event which offers $3,000 and the Dubai Cup to the champion.

Pavlodar (Kazakhstan), Rah Ahan (Iran) and Tideater (Iran) managed to score a perfect four points.

Top seed Pavlodar, led by GMs Pavel Kotsur and Evgeny Vladimirov, swept Erbil (Iraq), 4-0.

Rah Ahan (Iran) blanked Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) and Tidewatre (Iran) crushed the all-female Tehran (Iran) by similar 4-0 scores.

PBA All-Star balloting starts today

FANS CAN NOW CAST THEIR VOTES on players who will make up this year's starting rosters for the 2007 PBA All-Star game.

Voting begins today, simultaneous with the opening of the season-ending Fiesta Cup at the Astrodome.

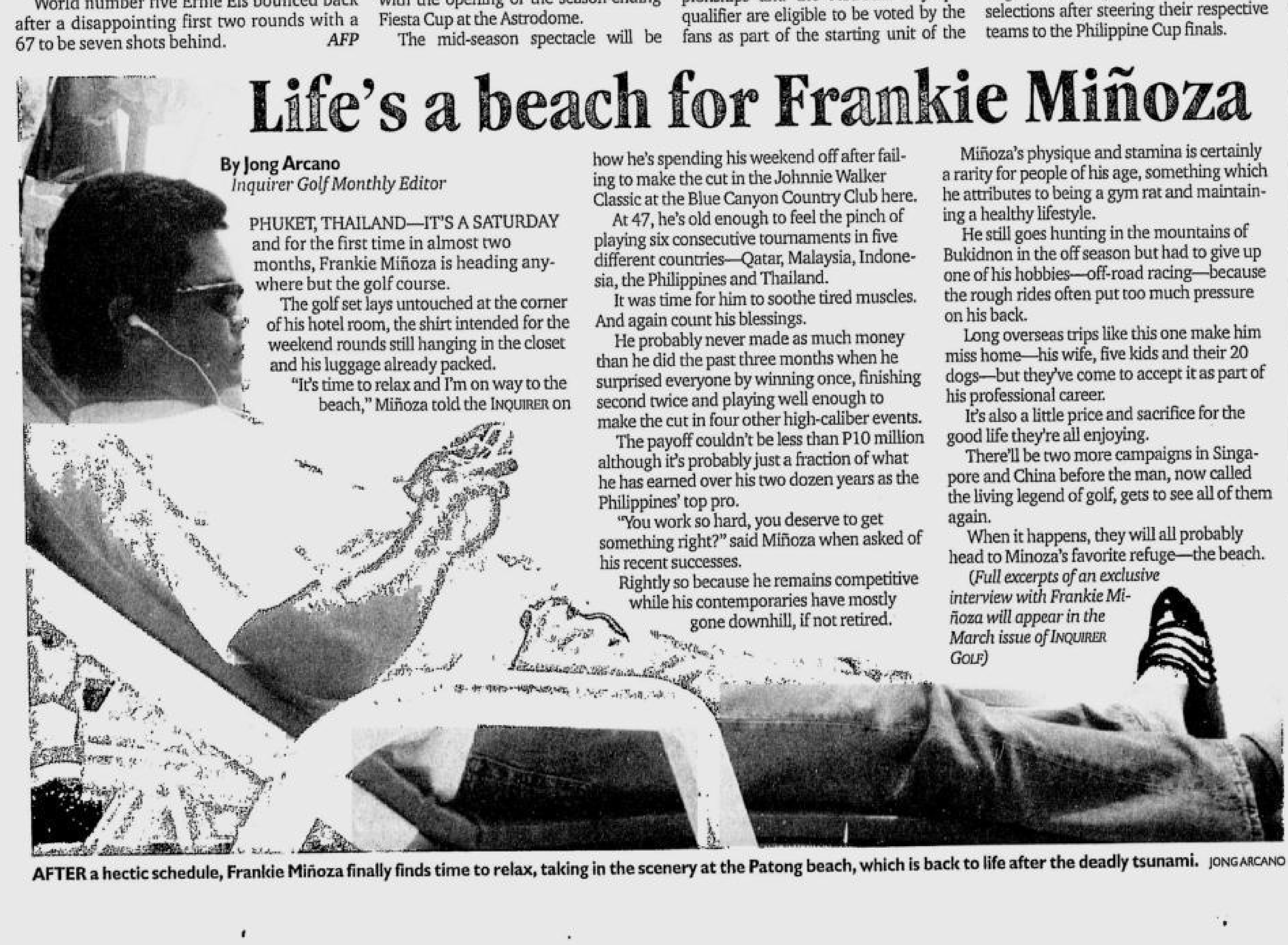
The mid-season spectacle will be held in San Fernando, La Union and Baguio City from April 25 to 29.

All twelve regular players selected to the national team for the coming South East Asian Basketball Association championships and the Fiba-Asia Olympic qualifier are eligible to be voted by the fans as part of the starting unit of the North and South teams.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala said fans can vote through e-mails, SMS and in game venues during playing days.

Ginebra's Jong Uichico and San Miguel's Chot Reyes will handle the two selections after steering their respective teams to the Philippine Cup finals.

Life's a beach for Frankie Miñoza


AFTER a hectic schedule, Frankie Miñoza finally finds time to relax, taking in the scenery at the Patong beach, which is back to life after the deadly tsunami. JONG ARCANO

By Jong Arcano
Inquirer Golf Monthly Editor

PHUKET, THAILAND—IT'S A SATURDAY and for the first time in almost two months, Frankie Miñoza is heading anywhere but the golf course.

The golf set lays untouched at the corner of his hotel room, the shirt intended for the weekend rounds still hanging in the closet and his luggage already packed.

"It's time to relax and I'm on way to the beach," Miñoza told the INQUIRER on how he's spending his weekend off after failing to make the cut in the Johnnie Walker Classic at the Blue Canyon Country Club here.

At 47, he's old enough to feel the pinch of playing six consecutive tournaments in five different countries—Qatar, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand.

It was time for him to soothe tired muscles. And again count his blessings.

He probably never made as much money than he did the past three months when he surprised everyone by winning once, finishing second twice and playing well enough to make the cut in four other high-caliber events.

The payoff couldn't be less than P10 million although it's probably just a fraction of what he has earned over his two dozen years as the Philippines' top pro.

"You work so hard, you deserve to get something right?" said Miñoza when asked of his recent successes.

Rightly so because he remains competitive while his contemporaries have mostly gone downhill, if not retired.

Miñoza's physique and stamina is certainly a rarity for people of his age, something which he attributes to being a gym rat and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

He still goes hunting in the mountains of Bukidnon in the off season but had to give up one of his hobbies—off-road racing—because the rough rides often put too much pressure on his back.

Long overseas trips like this one make him miss home—his wife, five kids and their 20 dogs—but they've come to accept it as part of his professional career.

It's also a little price and sacrifice for the good life they're all enjoying.

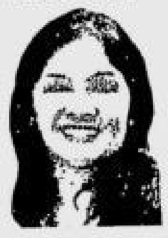
There'll be two more campaigns in Singapore and China before the man, now called the living legend of golf, gets to see all of them again.

When it happens, they will all probably head to Minoza's favorite refuge—the beach.

(Full excerpts of an exclusive interview with Frankie Miñoza will appear in the March issue of INQUIRER GOLF)

Seaba hosting a matter of formality

IN HUDDLE


Beth Celis

SCRIBES AND photographers covering the PBA were invited to a press conference by the Coca Cola Tigers through its advertising agency on Friday night.

The invitation was for 6 p.m. at the Manila Polo Club in Makati.

Expecting a long-awaited update on the status of the PBA ballclub and answers to many questions, the scribes and photogs made it a point to be at the MPC on time.

***

The media was welcomed by Coke coach Binky Favis and returning PBA governor JB Baylon who held the same position when Coke took over the Pop Cola franchise some years back.

Announcing officially for the first time the transfer of ownership of Coca Cola Philippines from San Miguel Corporation to the mother company in Atlanta, the two gentlemen who were to take charge were then introduced: Baring Olafsson from Iceland, chief operating officer; and David Lyons from Boston, chief executive officer.

The team was there for mass and, later, for a dinner with the press.

***

Before I continue, let me tell you that I was not in this presscon.

Faced with a dilemma, a scribe from a popular broadsheet called me yesterday to express his frustration over the fact that some of the more important questions they wanted to ask were left unanswered. In the process he had to talk about the previous night's affair.

"They announced that the company had been sold, but everybody knows that already. We had a lot of questions to ask, like what they intend to do with the team, if they are taking the franchise lock, stock and barrel, or more importantly, if they were taking the franchise at all."

"JB said this is the most likely direction but we wanted to hear it straight from either of the top two executives from Coke International. They were in another table and there had been no formal forum for the evening. Our talks with JB and Binky were informal," the scribe said.

Well maybe the team should call another press conference, complete with a program and an open forum.

***

BAP-SBP vice chairman Ricky Vargas' voice sounded tired but happy as he related how the overnight planning session of the association's board of trustees went.

The attendance was good, he said and the session went very well as they charted their direction for the coming months and years.

Only chairman Luis Villafuerte and director Lito Alvarez failed to attend, he said.

"We spent the whole day working today and we covered a lot of ground: a grassroots program, the formation of the national team, accreditation for membership, the holding of workshops, the synchronization of calendars, etc ... and our mission vision. The session was very productive," he reported.

On the hosting of this year's Seaba, Ricky said they are only awaiting a formal letter from Fiba-Asia, confirming that the event will be held here in Manila.

"Thailand, the original host, has agreed to let us host the event. It's all a matter of formality."

UNITY IN SPORTS: Business magnate and BAP-Samahang Basketboll ng Pilipinas president Manuel V. Pangilinan middle), POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. and Philippine Sports Commission chair William Ramirez (right) receive plaques of appreciation for making possible the holding of Unity in Sports at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. From left are Commissioner Christopher Carrion of the Edsa People Power Commission and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita . The event held on Feb 25 commemorated the 21st Anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolution.

WORLD 8-BALL

Alcano leads RP charge

REIGNING WORLD POOL CHAMPION Ronato Alcano downed Rafath Habib of India, 8-3, in Group E to lead the Philippine campaign at the start of the third annual World 8-Ball Championship at the Al Bashton Hall in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates over the weekend.

Former world No. 1 Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 2006 World Pool Leaque ruler Dennis Orcollo and overseas Filipino worker Al James Ortega also hurdled their respective rivals in Group F.

Bustamante crushed Alexander Dremsizis of Germany (8-1), Orcollo trounced Karl Boyes of Great Britain (8-3) and Ortega subdued Saleh Al Rimawi of UAE (8-5).

Also winning were OFWs Elvis Calasang, Mario Tolentino, Joven Alba and Joybe Vicente.

ALCANO

BUSTAMANTE

Calasang bested Naif Al Jeweni of Kingdom of South Africa (8-2) in Group A; Tolentino nipped Mohammed Aseel of Egypt (8-7) in Group B; Alba waylaid Hani Al Howri of UAE (8-4); and Vicente crushed Muhammed Benali of Qatar (8-3) in Group H.

Filipinos Joven Bustamante and Jobert Panga yielded to Germans Thorsten Hohmann (8-6) in Group C and Olaf Koster (8-7) in Group G, respectively.

Hall-of-Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes and Lee Van Corteza were still playing against Venezuelan Rizandro Arrieta and Australian Michael Felder at presstime.

Other notable winners in the opening round were reigning titlist Wu Chia-ching and Hui Kai-hsia of Taiwan, Thomas Engert and Oliver Ortmann of Germany, Niels Feijen and Nick Van den Berg of the Netherlands, Satoshi Kawabata of Japan and Marcus Chamat of Sweden. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Kiamco rules US Bar Table

KIAMCO: P290,000 richer

FILIPINO WARREN KIAMCO topped the 9-Ball division of the 14th Annual US Bar Table Championship at the Sands Regency hotel in Reno, Nevada late Friday.

The 36-year-old Kiamco, a three-time Southeast Asian Games gold medalist, earned $6,000 (about P290,000) for his first major title this year and is now eligible for the $5,000 bonus if he can also win the 8-Ball division that got underway yesterday.

Kiamco, who hails from Pasil, Cebu but is now based in Quezon City, took the hot seat Friday afternoon with a win over the hitherto unbeaten Rafael Martinez. He repeated over Martinez, 9-5, in the finals.

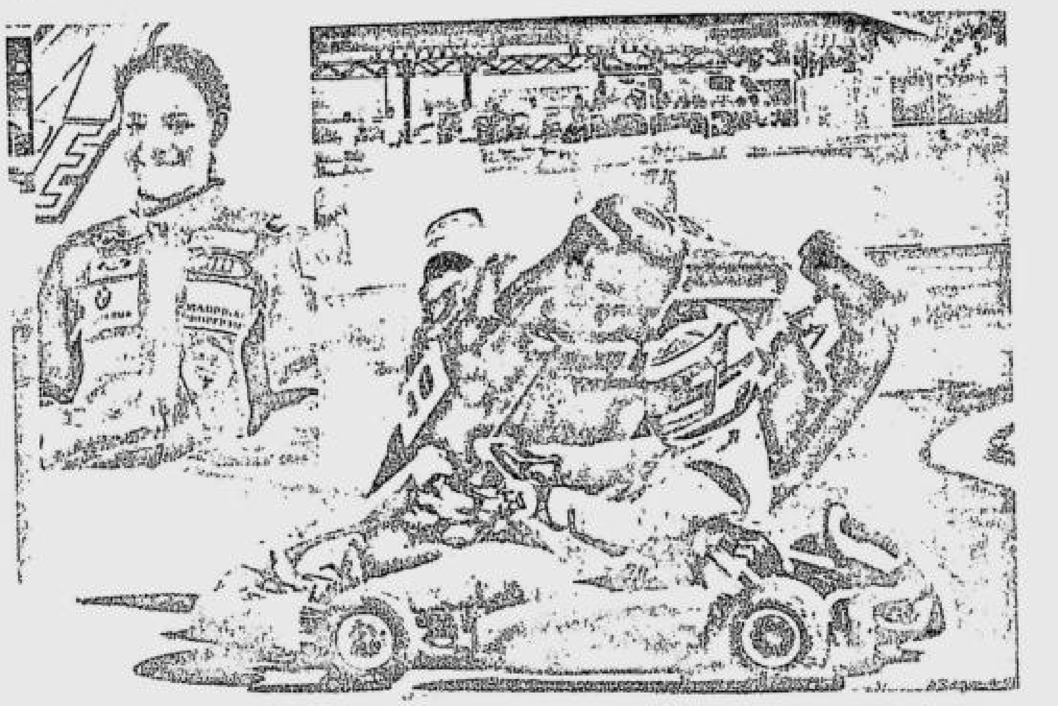
En route to the finals, Kiamco, who got a bye in the first round, outplayed Mike Wells, Jason Marcoulier, Damian Overton, Tinsley Johnson, James Walden, and Dave Martin.

Martinez defeated Shane Van Boening to force a rematch with Kiamco, the newest member of Perry Mariano's Bugsy Promotion.

Martinez pocketed $3,500 for second, Boening $2,500 for third and Martin $1,500 for fourth.

"Warren (Kiamco) is really one of our top players, said Yen Makabenta, chair of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines. "It's unfortunate that he got sick last year."

Other Filipinos who competed in the 144-man field were Edwin Montal, Gandy Valle, Rodolfo Luat and Antonio Gabica. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*



MARLON Stockinger (foreground) struggles for control as Matteo Guidicelli (40) is about to roll over after their karts touch during the Pre-Final of the second round of the Rotax Mojo Max Challenge at the Carmona Circuit. Alessandra Madrigal (inset) topped the race to grab the lead in the series.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Dazzling Affair (3), Tanging Ikaw (4), Lucky Strike (2)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—She Boom (5), Mary Jane Bomb (4), Courage Heart (2), Loaded (6)
Race 3—(Tri)—Kambro (5), Quick Play (1), Real Tough (2)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Selectee (3), Pristine Water (4), Kaori Yoks (5), Order Of Merit (1)
Race 5—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Enjoy Me (9), Mikaela's Music (6), Special Delivery/Sharp Thunder (4), Tikboy (1), Be Faithful (10), Conquistadorsdream (7)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Kilimanjaro (1), Idol (2), Xtreme Heat (6), Mes Monique (3)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Big Bang (5), Conquistaroyal (7), Guajido (2), Ahnone (6), Honestly (4)
Race 8—(Tri)—Grand Fiesta (3), Lord Brian (2), Tonic Water (5)
Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Awesome Power (4), Jajie (7), El Montruo (3), Vinfa's Pride/Cast Away (1)
Race 10—(Tri)—Dona Nene (4), Bundok Peninsula (5), Striking Thunder (3)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Golden Sutter/Brown Bomber (4), Sharp And Deadly (5), Sun Coast (1), Sun And Wind (3)
Race 12—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—En Gedi (7), Hezabellagio (6), Kaligatan (3), Showman (4), Shifty (8), The Dominator (9)

Pacquiao to host NCA Pasay derby

MANNY PAQUIAO AND SPORTSMAN GERRY Ramos will host the 5-cock derby of the National Cockers' Association (NCA) on March 8 at the Pasay City cockpit.

Champion breeders former Senator Ramon Revilla, Manolo Lopez, Gov. Ito Ynares, Jun Santiago, Edwin Abella, Boy Jiao, Chairman Rudy Albano, Danding Cojuangco, Fiscal Villanueva, brothers Eddie and Boboy Araneta, Patrick Antonio, brothers Eddie and Boboy Araneta, Patrick Antonio, brothers Raffy and Mauro Prieto, JV Magsaysay, Baby Asistio, Johnny Jalandoni, Charing Magbuhos, Larry Mendoza, Joey Sarasola, Jun Marasigan, Bebot Uy, Edwin Javelosa, Randy Peralta, Jerry Barias, Tony Marfori, Johnny Lagbas, William Go, James Uy, and Essie Mallillin will field their aces in the NCA derby.

Other NCA stalwarts entered are Lando Celebre, Ruel Ricafort, Edgar Santos, Pico Berin, Rep. Iggy Arroyo, Efren Canlas, Mario Villamor, Jun and Rudy Jingco, Jet Fernando, Madlangbayan Brothers, Art Sevilla, Edwin Santos, Bebot Villar, Tony Lasalla, Benjie Lim, Paul Estrellad, Michael Co, Lando Celebre and Edgar Santos.

Alessandra Racing Team sweeps top three places

ALESSANDRA RACING TEAM FLAUNTED its might by sweeping the top three places in the second round of the Rotax Mojo Max Challenge held Sunday at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite.

Clinching first was 11-year-old Alessandra Madrigal, who led from start to finish of the 20-lap Final. Teammate Mark Bumgarner checked in 9 seconds behind, followed by Oliver Aquino, another Alessandra Racing driver, 6 seconds later.

Two-time Philippine representative to the World Rotax Max Championship and former points leader Marlon Stockinger, hounded by engine problems, settled for fourth.

Madrigal, who is coached by former world karting champion Terry Fullerton of Great Britain, has competed in four karting events this year and has, so far, posted an impressive 1-2-1-1 (first-second-first-first) record.

Another Alessandra Racing Team member and defending Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli was forced to withdraw after figuring in an incident with Stockinger on the 13th lap of the Pre-final.

Guidicelli's kart collided with Stockinger's on the second turn, flipped and landed upside down. Guidicelli was taken to the hospital and treated for bruises. while Stockinger lost several positions and wound up seventh.

With the result, Madrigal heads the standings with 175 points, followed by Stockinger (165), Aquino (161), Bumgarner (160), Paolo Eslao and Daniel Cleak (150 apiece), Tom Stockinger (143), Stefano Marcelo (142), Bobby Domingo (137), Santiago Garcia (133), Guidicelli (100), Maico Angeles (91), Indy Villalon (75) and Allan Uy (65).

The third round of the Rotax Mojo Max Challenge is scheduled for Sunday, March 11, at the Carmona Circuit.

Women's Pool up March 26

THE INAUGURAL WOMEN'S NATIONal Pool Championship will be held March 26-31 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. The event is being organized alongside the 2nd Men's National Pool Championship by Raya Sports and the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) to encourage more women and girls to take up the sport. "SWS surveys show that eight million Filipinos who watch pool on TV are women," Raya president Yen Makabenta said. "But only a small percentage of them play pool. We believe it's time we encourage women to take up the sport. SEA Games double gold medalist Rubilen Amit will lead the field in the six-day competition. Joining her are national players Mary Ann Basas (fourth place 8-Ball, Asian Games) and Iris Ranola (fourth place 9-Ball, Asian Games). At stake is P200,000 to the champion and prizes up to eighth place. In addition, top placers in the tournament will be entered by BSCP in international competitions. "We will use this event as one of our main criteria in selection our players for the SEA Games in Thailand in December," said BSCP president Ernie Fajardo. Entry fee is P1,500. Deadline for registration is March 19.

SPORTSWATCH

NFGB welcomes eight new members

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF GAMEFOWL BREEDERS, INC. (NFGB) WELcomed to its fold eight new gamecock breeders associations, bringing to 24 the total number of its membership. NFGB, headed by newly elected president Ricoy Palmares, was the organizer of the annual National Bakbakan 9- stag derby, which drew 1, 273 entries last year. The eight new associations: Rizal Gamefowl Breeders Association headed by Joey Sy, Gamefowl Breeders Association of Pangasinan of Vice Mayor Osmundo Lambino, Vizcaya Ifugao Gamefowl Breeders Association of engineer Moises Almuete, ZABONG Gamefowl Breeders Association of Tony Escoto, Bicol Gamefowl Breeders Association of John Liao, Bohol Gamefowl Breeders Association of Baba Yap, United Bulacan Gamefowl Breeders Association of Tony Onson and Eastern Visayas Gamefowl Breeders Association of Ed Arellano.

Super Pacman derby at Makati Coliseum

THE WTJ SPORTS AND AMUSEMENT CORP. PRESENTS ANOTHER TOUGH cockfest, dubbed as Super Pacman 5-cock derby on Monday at the Makati Coliseum. Participants must submit entries today at Makati Coliseum, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao, now regarded as a serious gamefowl breeder, will host the event in partnership with the Super Pacman group. Pacquiao recently bagged the Davao 7-cock derby championship using the Joe Sanford roundheads. Meanwhile, gamecock breeders who want to join the stag derbies at Makati Coliseum may contact 896-3545 and 895-6475 (Joan or Stephanie).

Gomez tops Pacman 10-ball

GOMEZ

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Roberto Gomez bested Dondon Razalan, 11-6, in the finals to win the 3rd Manny Pacquiao 10-Ball Open Billiard Tournament at Arthur's Billiard Hall here Thursday.

The win was worth P300,000 for the Zamboanga City-born Gomez.

"Dondon (Razalan) is good, but I gained the headstart," said the 28-year-old Gomez in Filipino. "The fact that I was waiting in the finals was also a big factor because I was able to rest."

Gomez, one of the rising stars of Bugsy Promotion, drew a bye in the opener and then subdued Gil Catamura, Rey Maniklin, Arnold Ramirez, Arnel Suscano and Razalan in succession to barge into the final.

The Japan-based Razalan, who hails from Calauag, Quezon, bested firecracker victim Jarry "Putol" Pelayo of Negros Billiard Stable (NBS), 8-5, to force a rematch with Gomez. Pelayo settled for third place and P25,000.

"My game turned sour," said Razalan, who pocketed P100,000, in Filipino. "The breaks really went Gomez's way."

Edgardo Sibuco, house pro of One Side billiard hall in Ermita, Manila, beat Panfilo Damuag, 7-3, and settled for joint fifth to eighth places with Suscano, Timoy Saludo and Sonny Aton.

Davao City's Leonardo Didal, the 2006 Solar Sports Fil-9 Ball Open runner-up, downed Sibugo for fourth place and P15,000.

Filipino-Japanese Mike Takayama wound up tied for 9th to 12th places with Ramirez, Godofredo Ducanes and Yoyong Neri.

At 13th to 16th placers were Negros Billiard Stable bets Ricky Zerna and Reynaldo Grandea, Johann Chua and Danny Otacan.

The event was organized by RP trickshot champ Julie Falcon and Boy Lopez. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

TOP DRIVER: Tyson Sy gets three awards (Motorsports Driver of the Year, Asian Formula Three Driver of the Year and Philippine National Formula Three Championship) during the 2006 Golden Wheel Awards Night at the Casino Filipino. The 19-year-old Sy, backed by Petron, Puma and Demvels Motorsports, is the only Asian-Filipino driver in the 2007 Star Mazda Championship. He is leaving for the US to join the series which begins March 16 in Florida.

BACK-to-back champion Sam Atienza (fourth from left) displays his trophy during the awards night at China Palace in Mall of Asia. From left, are: Manolo Linsangan, Ric Medel, Rey Tang, runner-up Ed Pedagat, third-placer Chris Munar, Roy Cabaltera, Luis Cuasay, Norm Viray, Art Gabon and Ben Reduta.

Atienza Goin' Bananas champ

SAM ATIENZA, A LONG-TIME GOLFER from San Jose, did it again.

Atienza amassed 93 points via the Molave scoring system to emerge victorious for the second straight year in a four-leg, 72-hole tournament conducted in the Philippines recently by the Goin' Bananas golfers of San Jose, California.

Atienza beat club president Ed Pedagat, who tallied 73, and handicap chair Chris Munar, who carded 65, in the event staged at Malarayat (Lipa), Forest Hills (Antipolo), and Tagaytay's Highlands and Midland courses.

"He (Atienza) appeared to have mastered the local courses," said tournament director Rey Tang.

Close to 20 Goin' Bananas members competed in the tourney, which served as a warm-up for their participation in the Corporate Cup starting tomorrow in Baguio City.

Other participants were Norm Viray, Ric Medel, Bob Ocampo, Luis Cuasay, Art Gabon, Manolo Linsangan, Ben Reduta, Roy Cabaltera, Doms Ancheta, Mario Vista, Roger Tabilas, Eisen Manalansan, Jojo Ocampo, Stewart Go, Romy Yumul and Robert Braganza.

Allanic US debut ends in TKO loss

ABNER MARES OF MEXICO WON BY TECHNICAL knockout over Filipino Robert Allanic in the ninth round of their 10-round fight at the New Alhambra in Philadelphia Friday. The fight was stopped at the start of the ninth round due to big cuts over Allanic's left eye. Allanic, from Alumnus, Cebu, was making his debut fight in the United States against Mares, who represented Mexico at the Athens Olympics. Mares raised his record to 11 wins with 7 KOs, while Allanic dipped to 15-3 with 7 KOs. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

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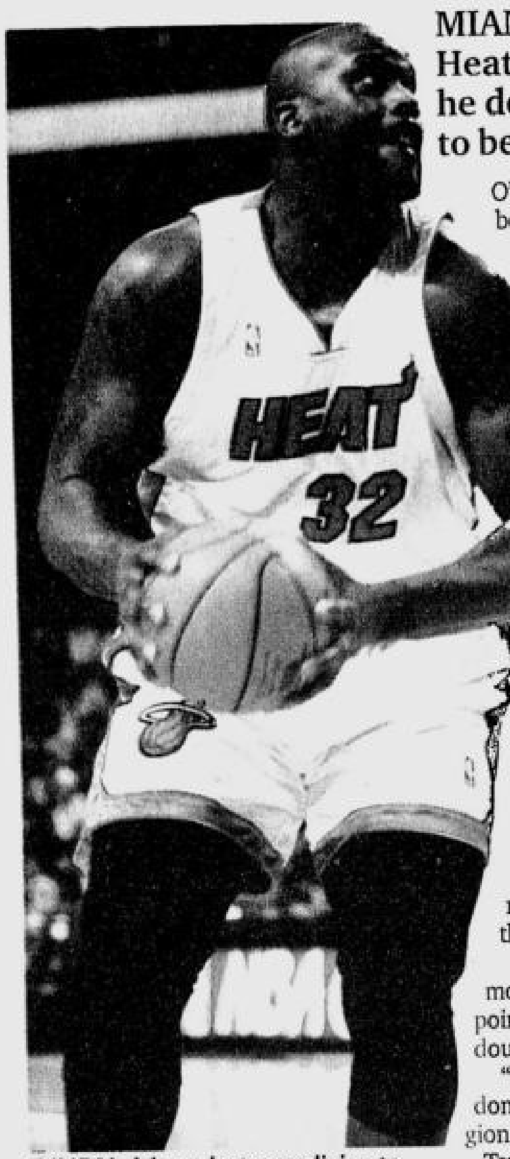
Shaq shows 'em who's the boss



O'NEAL: It's against my religion to not double [team] me. REUTERS

MIAMI—SHAQUILLE O'NEAL HELPED THE MIAMI Heat build a 22-point lead. And when they blew it, he delivered the go-ahead dunk in the final minute to beat the Detroit Pistons.

O'Neal had 31 points and 15 rebounds, both season highs, and the Heat earned their most impressive win yet since losing Dwyane Wade, edging Detroit 85-82 Friday night.

The Pistons rallied from a 50-28 deficit to take their first lead with 3:14 left. But O'Neal's dunk with 36 seconds to go put the Heat ahead to stay, 82-80.

Detroit missed three 3-point tries in the final 20 seconds that would have tied the game, including one by Chauncey Billups, who finished 2-for-14 from the field. He missed 11 consecutive shots before scoring his first basket with 5 minutes left.

"Word is, they think I'm an old man," O'Neal told reporters after the game.

"Pat (Coach Riley) told me this morning to go out and get 30 points," added O'Neal, who was not double-teamed by the Pistons.

"I take it personal when people don't double me. It's against my religion to not double me."

Tayshaun Prince had 22 points and Richard Hamilton finished with 20 for the Pistons, who failed to overcome a season-low 31 points in the first half.

The Heat improved to 3-2 since Wade was sidelined with a dislocated left shoulder. Detroit's Rasheed Wallace missed the game with a sprained left foot.

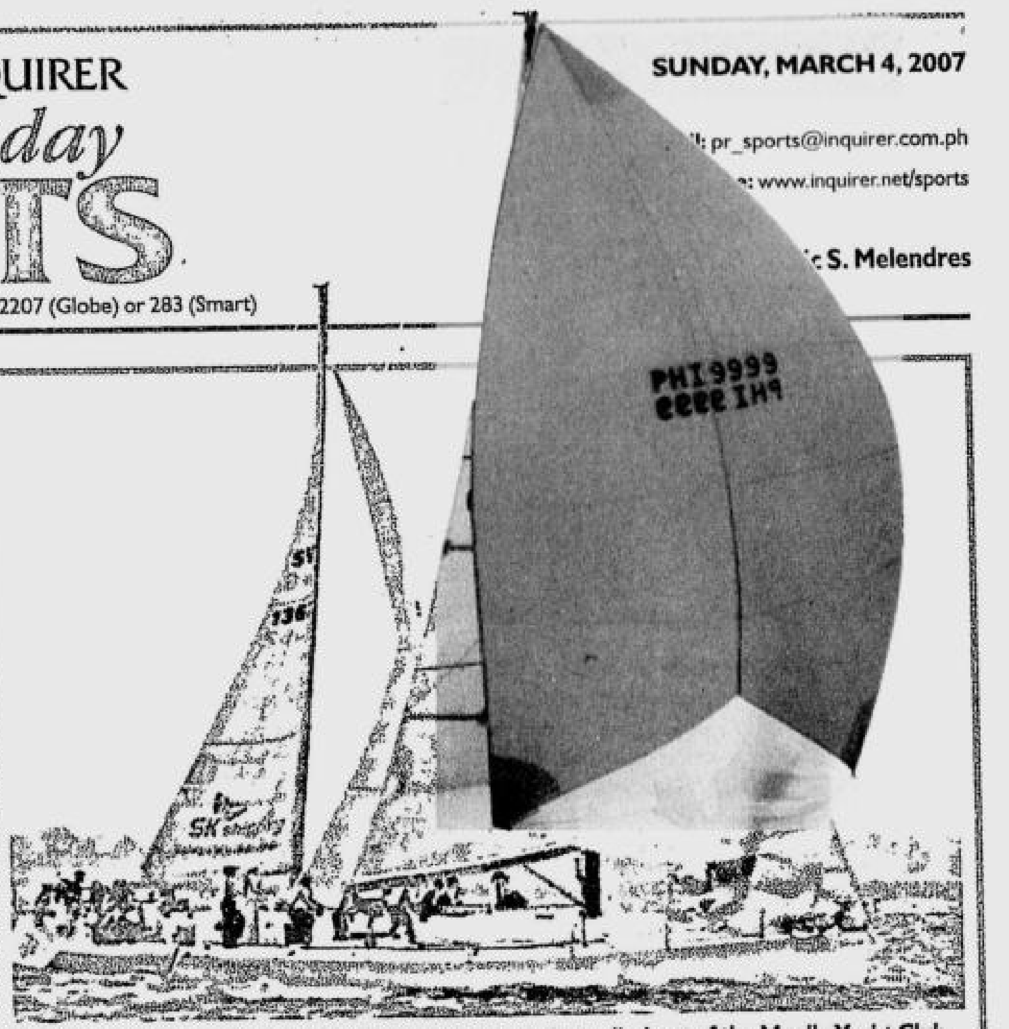
In other NBA games, it was Milwaukee 94, Toronto 81; Philadelphia 117, Memphis 112 (OT); Washington 93, Atlanta 92; New York 106, Golden State 97; San Antonio 98, Orlando 74; Utah 109, Minnesota 83; Chicago 104, New Orleans 93; Houston 108, Denver 97; Phoenix 115, Indiana 90; Sacramento 116, LA Lakers 108.

In San Antonio, Manu Ginobili made six 3-pointers and finished with 31 points to help the Spurs extend their season-high winning streak to seven.

In Minneapolis, Deron Williams had 21 points and eight assists for the Jazz while Gordon Giricek made four 3-pointers and finished with a season-high 20 points as Utah's subs outscored their counterparts 51-23.

In Chicago, Ben Gordon scored 27 points, and Kirk Hinrich added 11 of his 22 in the fourth quarter to help the Bulls pull away from the Hornets.

In Los Angeles, Mike Bibby scored 10 of his 33 points in the final 4:04 and Kevin Martin added 20, leading Sacramento over Los Angeles that ended the Lakers' three-game winning streak. *AP, Reuters*



DEFENDING champion Centennial leads the pack that sailed out of the Manila Yacht Club.

Manila-Boracay yacht race on; RP bet favored

By Jasmine W. Payo

CHAMPION YACHTS DOTTED THE MANILA Bay yesterday as 28 local and foreign racers sailed away from the Manila Yacht Club for the kickoff leg of the 5th e-Standard Insurance Manila to Boracay Race.

Defending champion Centennial, skippered by Ernesto Echauz, remains a favorite along with Asian circuit winners Hi Fidelity of Neil Pryde, Frederick Kinmonth's Mandrake, Frank Pong's Jelik, Ray Ordoveza's Karakoa, Ray Roberts' Quantum and Geoffrey Hill's Strewth.

The 200 nautical-mile race drew a record number of participants since its inception in 2003.

"There are 12 foreign boats—about six of them grand prix boats—participating in this event," said tournament chair Jesus Avecilla Jr. during the kickoff party Friday night at the Manila Yacht Club.

"It is not just the quantity, but the quality of the participants. I think this is going to be one of the toughest sailing events in Southeast Asia."

The race will be followed by the 15th President's Cup Regatta, which will be held in Boracay for the first time from March 7 to 10.

"With the combined races, we're expecting the participants to be more competitive," said Avecilla.

Racers from Australia, North America, Europe, China, Japan and Southeast Asia signed up for the back-to-back events.

Although Centennial also lorded it over in last year's President's Cup, Avecilla said the foreign boats may put up a challenge during the inshore and offshore races around Boracay Island and the Tablas Strait.

"The topnotch foreign boats, those who have won in the Asian circuits, are all here," noted Avecilla. "These are all seasoned racers, they have top-caliber crews and teams."

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Website: www.inquirer.net/business

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or [illegible]rt) **E-mail:** business@inquirer.com.ph

THE PHILAMLIFE CEO allows for the first time a photo of his family to be published.

The other side of 'Gov' Cuisia

Former CB head talks about regrets, family

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

PHILAMLIFE CEO AND FORMER Central Bank Governor Jose L. Cuisia had his share of battles with the media, especially when he was administrator of the Social Security System and head of the Central Bank.

He was known for turning red, literally, when his temper arises, and biting his nails when under stress.

But asked what his regret is, and he gives an unexpectedly candid answer, revealing a different side to "Gov Cuisia" as some reporters still call him.

Usually when CEOs are asked about their regrets, their answers often have something to do with their careers and corporate decisions.

It is refreshing to hear an executive say his regret in life was not having been able to spend more time with his family.

Cuisia admits during a recent roundtable discussion with members of the INQUIRER Business Section that his one regret was not having been able to devote the time that rightfully belonged to his wife and five daughters, particularly the second.

Critical posts

And this was because he had two critical government positions—first as SSS head, then CB Governor—which required almost all of his waking hours.

"I was not able to spend time with my second daughter and she became rebellious. There was a time when she stopped going to Mass," says Cuisia, a known member of the Opus Dei, the group started by St. Josemaria Escriva whose basic tenet is sanctification via one's work and achieving holiness through ordinary tasks.

"I would go home at 11 to 11:30 in the evening and leave at 8 or 8:30 in the morning. We hardly saw each other," he says, describing his schedule when he was CB Governor, from February 1990 to July 1993.

Cuisia believes in parents spending time—both in terms of quality and quantity—with their children. One-on-one sessions with each child is a must, if only because each son or daughter is different and has his or her own needs.

"I just didn't have enough time for the family because of all the trips I had to take when we were restructuring our Philippine commercial debt and meeting with creditors," says Cuisia.

"I should have spent more quality time with my wife and daughters," he adds.

Changing posts

It was this demanding work schedule coupled with his minimal pay as CB head that eventually made Cuisia leave his post.

When he was with CB, he received only about P25,000 a month. With the passage of the new Banking Law that created the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the pay of the BSP executives were increased to around P150,000 a month. By then Cuisia had left and joined Philamlife.

Few men would give up the post, which has a six-year term. Fewer still would give it up for one's family.

This is because the Central Bank (now BSP) head is a very important and influential position in the country. The BSP is tasked with regulating the country's money supply, which affects interest rates and inflation. It is also the big boss of all the banks in the Philippines

But Cuisia left before the end of his six-year term, and he does not regret his move.

Green Archer

A pure Green Archer, his first daughter also studied at De La Salle University. The second, the ex-rebel child, spent her first year at the Ateneo but eventually transferred to La Salle. The third and the fourth girls however, went the Blue Eagles way and enrolled in Ateneo although the fourth daughter is now in the Singapore Management University.

The youngest, the only one Cuisia gets to regularly spend time with, is a sophomore at the Ateneo.

Although he would have preferred that all his kids go to La Salle, he allowed them to choose their own schools. But what he could not take was his second daughter coming home one day, during her freshman year at the Ateneo, quoting her religion teacher as saying she does not have to hear Mass every Sunday.

One can imagine Cuisia's very fair skin turning red at the daughter's remark. But he held back and instead talked to Fr. Ben Nebres of the Ateneo to give feedback.

A devout Catholic who hears Mass daily, Cuisia was greatly saddened by her daughter's pronouncement. But her foray out of the Church did not last.

Cuisia believes the foundation provided by her high school, the Woodrose School for Girls, proved stronger.

"Suddenly she was going to Mass every day," says Cuisia, jokingly adding that he suspected she was probably infatuated with a graduate of the Southridge School for Boys who went to Mass daily.

Woodrose and Southridge are run by the Parents for Education Foundation, whose founders are members of the Opus Dei.

For the longest time, Cuisia was the only male in the family.

"Dad, even our dog is female," one of her daughters told him when she was young.

Now that one daughter is married and a grandchild is expected, there is at least one other male during family gatherings.

Although he spends regular time with each child, he admits he tends to spoil them.

"My wife is the disciplinarian," he says.

Two of the girls are abroad—working with AIG, the mother company of Philamlife.

Cuisia says unlike other companies, internship in the company is encouraged among family members.

What he did not expect was AIG hiring his daughters. One is in New York and the other had stints in London and another in Russia.

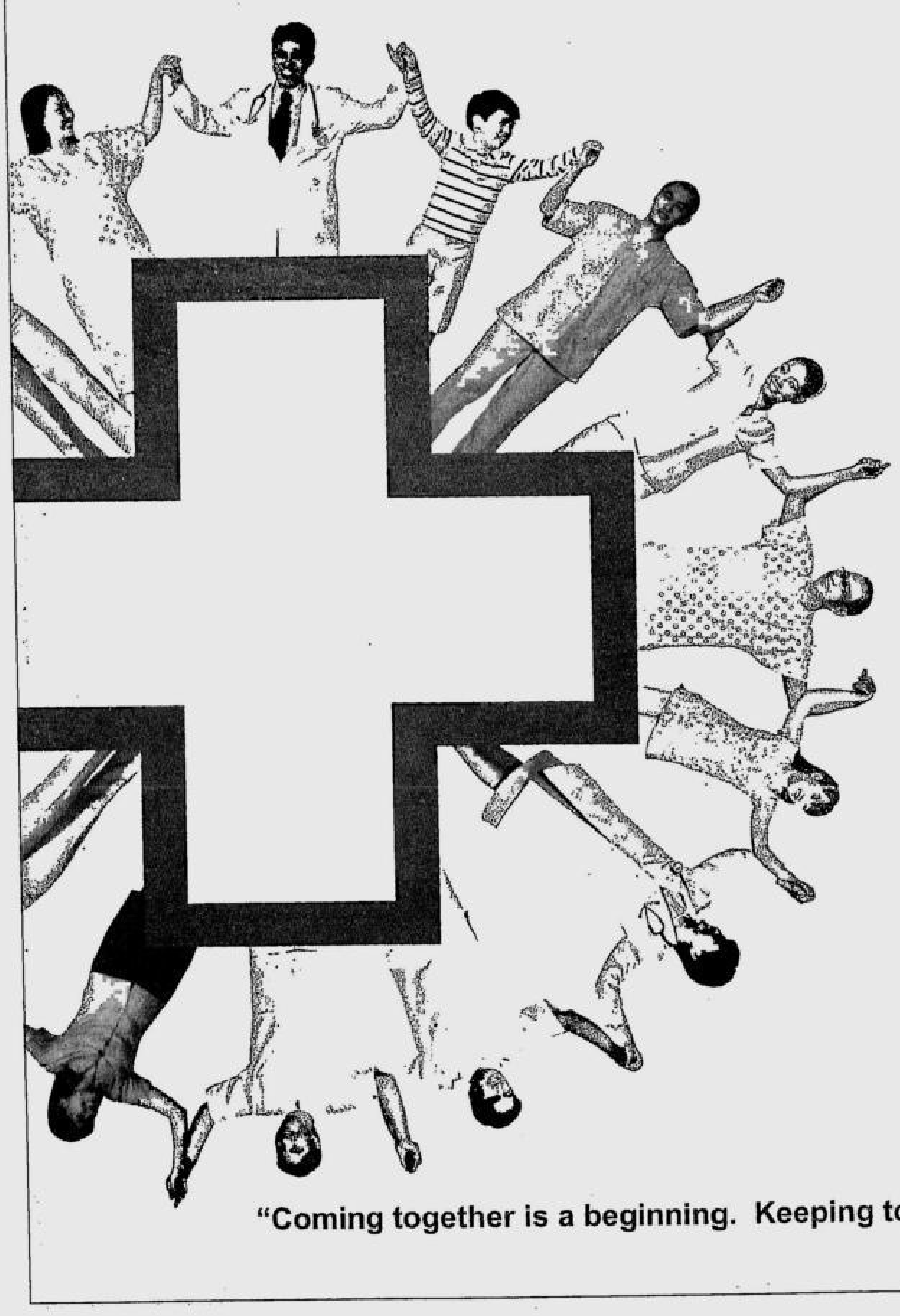
"My only condition when I agreed that they will work abroad was that they get the proper visa," he says.

The eldest daughter pursued higher studies in Education in the United States and is now married and a teacher.

Cuisia misses those days when the whole family would regularly go restaurant hopping. Food is a passion as the girls love to eat, he says.

At 62, Cuisia is looking forward to retirement and devoting his life to socio-civic activities. He says he will be active with Gawad Kalinga and will be involved in corporate governance agencies.

In his over 30 years in banking and government, Cuisia has been able to preserve his name. And he intends to eventually retire with his reputation intact.



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OPPORTUNITIES

THE PHILIPPINE TRADE TRAINING CENTER (PTTC) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) will be conducting various seminars this month at the PTTC Bldg. along Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor. Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

How to start a business

PTTC will conduct a seminar on how to start a business on March 6 at the Seminar Room A, 2nd Floor of the PTTC Bldg.

The seminar aims to prepare the participants in building up their capabilities in business. Topics are: Self-Analysis on Entrepreneurial Capability, Personal Skills/ Experience, Finding a Niche, Market Analysis, Planning your Start-up, Your Business and the Law, Protecting your Business, Business Premises & Location, Merchandise, and Business Records.

For inquiries, call 834-1344 to 49 and 831-9988 or fax at no.: 834-1343.

Strategic marketing

ACHIEVE maximum sales performance for your company. By building relationships with your clients through persuasive presentation techniques, you can close the the transaction and generate more accounts.

All these and more will be taken up in the Seminar on Strategic Marketing on March 9 at Seminar Room A, 2nd Floor of PTTC Bldg.

The seminar will discuss topics on: Overview of Basic Marketing, Description of the Philippine Market Based on Social, Economic and Political Conditions, Psychology of the Filipino Consumer, Promotional Mix Strategy and Experiences, Strategic Selling, Prospecting and Qualifying Clients, Sales Calls. Effective Presentation Skills, Handling Objections and Closing the Sales, and Action Planning.

For inquiries, call 834-1344 to 49 local 317 and 831-9988 or fax at no.: 834-1343.

Supervisory effectiveness

THE SUCCESS of a company depends on the supervisor's effectiveness in leading and motivating the employees in the organization. The supervisor is the key implementor of the company's plans and programs.

To be effective, one must be equipped with management skills and qualities as well as technical expertise. This will enhance the company's competitiveness through the improvement of product quality and labor productivity.

PTTC invites company supervisors, section heads, foremen and future supervisors to the Seminar on Supervisory Effectiveness for Improved Productivity on March 5-7, 2007 at Seminar Room G, 2nd Floor of the PTTC Bldg.

The seminar will cover topics on: The Organization and Supervisor, Planning, Organizing, Leading, and Controlling, Time Management, 55 of Good Housekeeping, and Principles of Total Quality Management (TQM).

For inquiries call the Testing and Inspection Division at tel. nos,: 834 1344-49 or fax at no: 8341343.

5S of good housekeeping

ON MARCH 16, 2007 at 1 to 5, it will hold a 5S seminar in Seminar Room G, second floor of the PTTC Bldg.. 5S is a structured and systematized approach to housekeeping applied in the operations of an organization. It is a simple and inexpensive system used to reduce work, improve productivity and promote quality, safety and employee morale.

It is one of the most basic quality and productivity tools that an organization should adopt to compete in today's highly globalized market. For inquiries, call 834-1344 to 49 local 303/306 or fax at no. 834-1343.

Total Quality Management

COMPANIES all over the world recognize that quality is the only way to ensure long term competitiveness and survival. It is imperative to apply quality management in an organization where everyone is committed to do the right thing, the first time and at all times, with the aim of satisfying the customers.

A seminar on to Total Quality Management will be held on March 15-16,2007 at the Seminar Room G, 2nd Floor of the PTTC Bldg. For inquiries call, 834-1344 to 49 or 833-7337 or fax at no. 834-1343.

The 2-day seminar will cover topics on: The Historical Perspective of Quality, The Challenges of Total Quality to Service Organizations, What is Quality?, Who is the Customer?, Quality Myths, Progressive Quality Improvement Process, 11 Commandments of TQM, The Principles of TQM, Organizing and implementing TQM, Barriers to TQM Implementation, and Quality Maturity Profile.

Effective purchasing system

PTTC will conduct a seminar on An Effective Purchasing System on March 15 at the Seminar Room B, 2nd Floor of the PTTC Bldg. City. Target participants are procurement personnel, managers and suppliers.

The seminar will cover topics on: Strategic Purchasing and Management, Understanding Procurement, Supply Positioning and Management, Framework of Total Quality Purchasing, Supplier Quality Management Model. Supplier Certification; ISO 9000 & Purchasing Strategy for Implementation, and Legal Aspects of Contracts. For reservations and inquiries, please call the Trade Business Management Division at tel. nos. 834-1344 to 49 or 831-9988 or fax at no. 834-1343.

Few leave Batangas without this knife

Couple inherits generations-old 'balisong' trade

By Marlon Alexander Luistro
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SHOPS that have a wider variety are the ones that survive.

LIZA Villanueva and husband Norberto looked to their past to become entrepreneurs.

POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE Batangas blade, the *balisong* was introduced in 1905 by Perfecto de Leon of Barangay Balisong where most of this type of knives are sourced.

De Leon's experience with the Muslims' knife, known as the kris, inspired him to create the country's first balisong made of kris blade but with crooked edges.

He first coined the term fan knife for balisong since the knife could easily be folded, opened or closed much like the native fan. In an expert's hand, the balisong could be flipped or twirled faster than a Western switch blade.

The word balisong literally means broken horn, from the words "bali," which means to break and "sung," which means horn. Up to this day, however, no one could tell whether the name balisong originated from its birthplace of Barangay Balisong or the village got its name from the knife itself.

Local lore says that it was part of De Leon's lifestyle to carry the balisong with him wherever he was. Soon people around him acquired the same habit.

"Balisong is a trademark of the Batangueño or Taaleño. You may leave your wallet but not your balisong," says Taal tourism officer Orly Hernandez.

Hernandez recalled that during the martial law years, from 1974 to 1983, sale of balisong to the public was prohibited by the government. But some blacksmiths managed to manufacture the fan knives via the underground economy.

Depending on the balisong's size, quality and additional product designs, prices could range from P100 to P2,500.

The largest balisong on retail measures at 72 inches while the smaller ones are 1 ½ inches long in the form of a key chain.

The biggest balisong size recorded was at 6 meters, which was presented by Barangay Balisong at the Yaman ng Taal Festival, as its native product.

Customers generally crave for the "hugis tari" blade, which is used in cockfighting, while others look for the Rambo style and double blade.

To test the blade's sharpness, manufacturers would usually hack the blade onto a one peso coin.

If the blade delivers a hole on the coin and doesn't show signs of damage or if it doesn't break, blacksmiths would ascertain its quality as sharp enough. Otherwise, they would assume the blades could either be fake or of low quality.

Surviving in the trade

The high cost of operations and low return of investments have prompted balisong sellers to quit the business, laments Liza Villanueva, 43, who, with husband Norberto, ventured into the Balisong business six years ago upon seeing good income from tourists.

Today, stores with a variety of balisong models are the ones who usually survive the competition, says Liza. "Anybody's tour of Batangas would not be complete without bringing home a balisong."

With P20,000 start-up capital, the couple set up a small tent to be able to offer walk-in clients an array of balisong models to choose from, ranging from the classic kris and "labaha" types to the modern Rambo style.

The blade of the labaha type is akin to what is used by old folks in shaving their beards while the Rambo style was inspired by the hunting knife used by Hollywood actor Sylvester Stallone in his action movies.

Store space has since expanded to accommodate fiberglass-made cabinets for other such items as the "hugis tari," key chain balisong and the double blade models.

Aside from the native balisong, the couple also sells locally made kitchen knives, "samurai," "itak" and other garden tools, which could be found hanging in their highway store.

The couple could count on earnings of more than P10,000 per month from the sale of balisong products alone from customers coming to their store.

Wholesale deliveries to Manila and orders from overseas workers as well as appearances on television shows interested in their success story generated increased attention on the Villanueva's business.

Peak months include the summer months from April to May, when the bulk of local and foreign tourists generally visit Batangas province for a vacation in its beach resorts and rest houses.

During the lean rainy months when sales are few, the traders go to the highways of San Jose town where competition is less.

Prices of raw materials, too, are starting to increase and it is becoming more difficult for balisong traders like Liza to make prices affordable for their customers. "*Matira ang matibay* (The tougher ones prevail)," she says.

Central Luzon 'business friendly': LGUs cut time in issuing permits

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—AT LEAST 127 of 130 towns and cities in Central Luzon have shortened the time it takes for businesses to get permits and licenses, increasing as well the revenues of local governments, the Department of Trade and Industry said.

The DTI, in a report summing up the results of a five-year streamlining project in the region, said the average turnaround time is "fast" and thus, "business friendly."

The report was recently presented to the GTZ or the German Agency for Technical Cooperation that plans to replicate the project in Eastern, Western and Central Visayas.

Mayors' permits, for instance, had been issued within 15 minutes or up to five days. The process used to entail two weeks to a month.

Business name certificates that usually took a month or two to get had been released at a minimum of an hour or a maximum of two days.

Sales promotion permits had been made available in an hour, shorter than the usual 48 hours.

Environmental clearance certificates that took a year or two to be issued had been approved after 120 to 150 days.

According to the report, local governments have earned "significant" revenues after they improved their business registration system.

Tarlac City reported a 68.52-percent increase in income in 2006. Baler in Aurora posted a 15-percent revenue rise and 63-percent increase in registrants in the first quarter of 2006 through the town's Business One-Stop Shop (BOSS), an offshoot of the streamlining project.

Iba in Zambales reported a 53-percent growth in revenues.

The streamlining project is a flagship endeavor of the Central Luzon Investment Coordinating Council (CLICC) organized by governors in 1994 to support the Central Luzon Development Program, the region's 10-year master plan. The regional DTI is the CLICC's secretariat.

Aside from establishing the council, the governors also formed the Central Luzon Growth Corridor Foundation Inc., which was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in 2005.

The streamlining project, which started in 2001, aimed to simplify and rationalize the business registration system in terms of documentary requirements, procedures, signatories, processing time and processing costs.

"The ultimate goal is reduce the cost of doing business in Central Luzon and create a more business friendly environment," said Blesila Lantayona, DTI regional director.

A study has still to be done on how the project has reduced corruption.

But Lantayona said the reduction in processing time and the number of signatories are "good indicators that opportunities for corruption are minimized."

Through the BOSS, agencies or local government departments are housed in a common area during the peak months, from January to March.

Businesses are given easy references on steps in the application process. Feedbacks from applicants are also asked through forms.

There are at least 51 local governments with BOSS. Aurora has three; Bataan, two; Bulacan, 18; Nueva Ecija, three; Pampanga, 14; Tarlac, six; and Zambales, five.

According to Lantayona, the streamlining project "resulted in customer satisfaction because the registration process was made more convenient for businesses."

Shellane pushes for safety rules

SHELLANE IS PUSHING TO IMprove the LPG market through consumer education on safety and awareness on genuine products.

"In the Philippines, there is still little understanding of LPG risks," explains general manager Bernard Ong. "Mishandling of LPG is one of the leading and most deadly causes of fire. Our present laws are inadequate in terms of protecting consumer safety. Shellane has therefore taken initiative and has been leading the industry in terms of consumer education, quality standards, and free checks during deliveries to ensure safety for end-users and their families."

Apart from product and technology innovation, Shellane also opens dialogues with its customers—the Filipino housewives, homemakers, restaurant owners, and such—to gain insight on product improvements and how best to serve their needs.

Shellane, one of the oldest LPG brands in the country, is 40 years old.

Launched in 1966, it pioneered the way Filipinos cooked in their homes and kitchens through the convenience of an LPG tank.

It markets its LPG products in 50 countries worldwide, to over 40 million customers.

PC games seller inks $5.5 M deal

WHETHER YOU'RE IN THE virtual world of online gaming or the very real world of business, strategic partnerships are crucial to deciding who eventually comes out ahead of the pack.

Asian Media Development Group (AMDG), the country's largest PC games distributor, recently signed a $5.5-million deal with Korean gaming giant NCsoft Corp. to exclusively market and distribute "Lineage II" in Southeast Asia.

The partnership marks the first time a Philippine company has been tapped to market a "Triple A" MMORPG (Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game) like "Lineage II" in the Philippines, Singapore and Malaysia.

It is also the first licensing contract ever awarded for "Lineage II." Previously, NCsoft maintained a policy of servicing the immensely popular online game only through local subsidiaries.

The "Lineage" franchise is NCsoft's flagship product line, with a customer reach of more than 55 million people worldwide. Outside Korea, NCsoft is currently servicing "Lineage II" in Taiwan, Japan, China, Thailand, North America and Europe.

The game has a worldwide subscriber base of 14 million and commands a dominant 45 percent share of the MMORPG market in the Asia-Pacific region.

"We have been looking for an effective way to penetrate new markets, and we believe that AMDG has the expertise in providing proper game services that we at NCsoft require for our flagship product line," the management of NCsoft said in an official statement.

Father-daughter tackle ways to maximize retail investment

THE VISIONARY WHO STARTED THE concept of an "appliance supermarket" in the '70s with Abenson teams up with his pioneering daughter in a public presentation at the "3rd Market Master Conference: Brand and Trade Initiatives" slated on March 21, at Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City.

Wilson Lim, president of the Abenson, Walter Mart and ElectroWorld Group tackles "How Suppliers Can Maximize Retail Investment" with daughter Joanne Lim, managing director of Walter Mart Supermarket, at the annual conference.

The two will discuss business strategies to attain mutual profitable growth for both suppliers and retail partners, and will answer questions that market managers face in their day-to-day exposure to the Philippine market.

"Partnership is key to achieve sustainable growth and long-term success. That is, suppliers and retailers must collaborate in sharing information, sharing expertise and at the end of the day, sharing their gains," he adds.

Wilson's over three decades of experience in the industry which covers a varied line of products from supermarket staples to appliances and electronics span a solid understanding of this dynamics.

Abenson remains as the country's largest appliance chain store.

Joanne earned her Master in Entrepreneurship at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) and has continually attended seminars abroad on consumer retailing.

The other topics and speakers include "How to use Blue Ocean Strategy to develop and launch new products" by Josiah Go, chair and chief marketing strategist of Mansmith and Fielders, Inc. For inquiries, call 7222318, 7277142 or log on to www.mansmith.net

Leadership economy

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

IN THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO, KARL Marx imagined an entire world based upon his theory of economics. He envisioned a "utopian society" where everyone received equal shares, and lived without competition.

In Marx's communist system, government would enforce the utopian economy. On paper, the theory was great—in practice, as history has shown, the economic model of communism was a disaster.

In Wealth of the Nations, Adam Smith popularized a different theory on economics: free enterprise. He laid the intellectual framework that explained the free market which still holds true today.

Smith coined the expression "the invisible hand," which he used to demonstrate how self-interest guides the most efficient use of resources in a nation's economy. He argued that government efforts to promote social good are inferior compared to the unbridled market forces of commerce.

Smith became the key influencer of Western economic theory. His ideas underlie the present US economy—an economy based on supply and demand. His system didn't require a "big brother" government to ensure its success. Instead, it was governed by the natural forces of a free market.

Supply and demand

I believe our influence operates on similar "supply and demand" principles as the free market economy. Leadership should not have to be forced on a group of people.

Someone who leads by coercion or manipulation isn't a healthy leader. Healthy influence is based upon providing a resource that is needed by a group.

When you possess that resource, your influence goes up, just like a stock price goes up when a company is providing goods or services that are in demand.

Leader's influence acts like capital

If leadership, like the marketplace, functions according to the laws of supply and demand, then let us ponder what kind of capital we might have that will increase our influence with others.

1. Intellectual capital

Resources in this category include: knowledge on a particular subject, insight and intuition into a given area, or data on a relevant issue. When someone puts their intellectual capital into a tangible form, it becomes what attorneys call "intellectual property." If it is rare and relevant, it will be valuable.

How to accumulate intellectual capital

(1) Study and know your business

(2) Think more than others about your business

(3) Think about solutions and share them with others

2. Social capital

Resources that represent social capital are the relationships and respect a person has built up over the years within their network. Social capital comes from interfacing with others in a healthy way and adding value to them individually as well as professionally—especially in times of need.

How to accumulate social capital

(1) Value people and relationships

(2) Look for the key to each person's life

(3) Become a networker and connect people together

(4) Seize every opportunity to add value to others

3. Experiential capital

Resources in this category include past experience, a good track record accompanied by a strong work ethic, integrity, and sound past decision-making. Experiential capital is akin to intellectual capital, but not identical. This capital is the intuitive wisdom that comes from raw experience rather than the hard data or content from a book.

How to accumulate experiential capital

(1) Find your niche and dig in ... don't hop around;

(2) Evaluate your experiences

(3) Build on your experiences, don't camp on them

4. Talent capital

Resources that fall within talent capital are the abilities a person has to pull off a desired goal. When an organization wants to produce a good or render a service, it has need for specific talents—graphically, technically, physically, organizationally—and the person with those talents carries the weight.

While talent is never enough, it is a good place to start.

How to accumulate talent capital

(1) Discover your top three strengths

(2) Stay in your strength zone

(3) List ways your talent can add value to the team

(4) Stretch your strength areas

5. Creativity capital

Resources that represent creativity capital are creative thinking; the aptitude to merge two current ideas into a new one; the capacity to communicate a thought originally and persuasively; and the ability to invent new products, methods, services, or strategies.

How to accumulate creativity capital...

(1) Develop a creative think team

(2) Continually ask: "Is there a better way to do what we are doing?"

(3) Continually ask: "Is someone else doing it in a better way?"

6. Passion capital

Finally, this capital is about the "pathos" of a person. Leaders with passion capital carry weight because of their strong personality and charisma. They bring to the table excitement, enthusiasm and determination; a fire that magnetically draws others to them. Passion energizes talent, both individually and collectively.

How to accumulate passion capital ...

(1) Discover your strengths

(2) Hang around passionate people

(3) Give your passion away

Summary

Leadership revolves around the timeless principles of supply and demand. Your influence as a leader will be proportionate to the "leadership capital" you bring to an organization. Cultivate your leadership capital wisely, and you'll be flooded with opportunities to invest it in a leadership economy hungry for healthy leaders.

For information on John Maxwell e-mail us at bing@inspire.ph or call 813-2049/2732. God bless!

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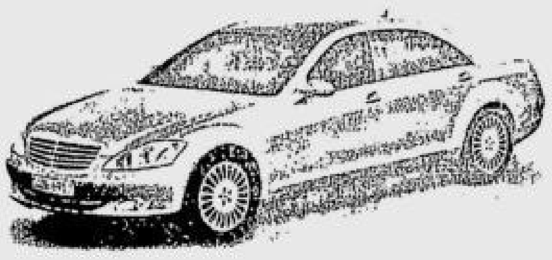
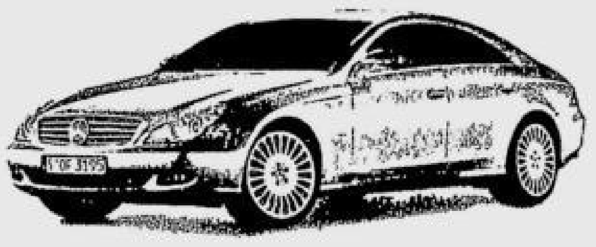


S-Class



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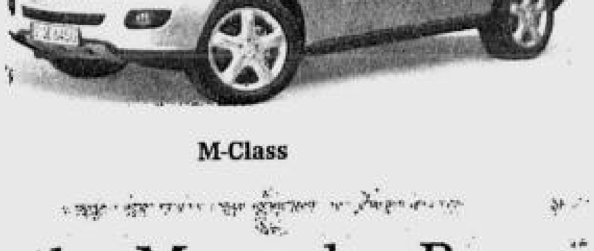

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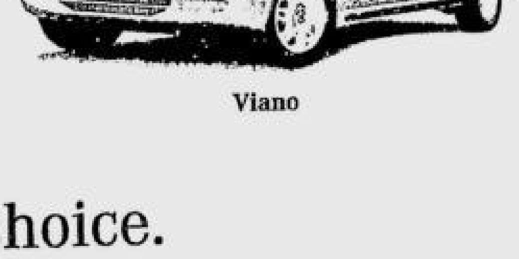

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City in Bloom

SMART celebrates Panagbenga 2007

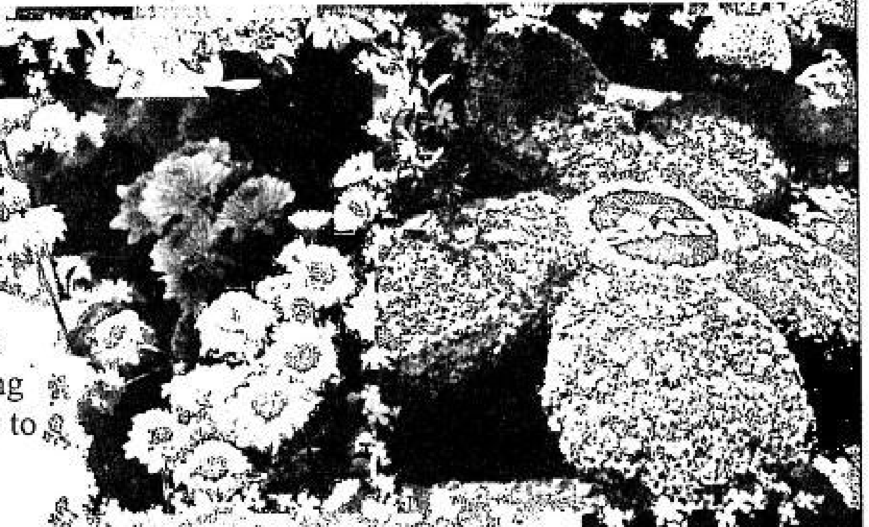
No other event captures the rich character of Baguio better than the *Panagbenga*, also known as the *Baguio Flower Festival*. In the Kankaney language, *Panagbenga* means "a season of blossoming," and for a few weeks during the breezy month of February, the entire city of Baguio blooms finest with beautiful flowers set against the natural grace, talent, and spirit of its highland communities.

Smart Communications, Inc. (SMART), the country's leading wireless services provider, honored the people of Baguio during this year's much-awaited celebration, highlighted by the Grand Festival Parade of over 30 flower-adorned floats. The parade delighted spectators and drew attention to the exquisite flowers grown around the region and the innate creativity of the Cordillera people.

SMART executives and Baguio City VIPs at the Panagbenga: (From left) Baguio Flower Festival Foundation, Inc. Chairman Atty. Damaso Bangaoet; Baguio City Acting Mayor Reynaldo Bautista; SMART Head of Sales and Distribution Mr. Florante Jimenez; SMART Regional Sales Manager for North and Central Luzon Ms. Verge Carantes; and Baguio businesswoman Ms. Narda Capuyan.

SMART and Baguio give rise to Panagbenga

The SMART and *Panagbenga* partnership dates back to the creation of the festival. Lawyer Damaso Bangaoet, head of the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation, Inc., recognizes SMART's significant contribution to the conception of Panagbenga in the mid-90s, SMART having been the only telecommunications company that believed in the purpose of the festival. The relationship has since grown stronger and continues to flourish as SMART steadily provides a wide array of wireless services that enhance the *Panagbenga* experience, year after year, for locals and tourists alike.



This year, for the first time in *Panagbenga*, SMART SMS polling allowed the public to help choose the best festival float. Visitors voted for their favorite float by texting PANAGBENGA FLOAT with the float number to 2953.

During the festival weekend, SMART made available the special *Panagbenga* low-cost, high-value call rate of only P10 for three SMART-to-SMART calls of three minutes each. The SMART Buddy SIM was offered for only P65 or three for P150. All those who purchased either a Talk 'N Text or SMART Buddy SIM plus E-load of P30 were given premium items. Those who signed up for SMART Bro during the promo period also received freebies.

SMART fetes the people of Baguio

The festival vibe was kept alive with various activities all over the city. Local gamers flocked to the SMART Bro booths along Session Road to take part in an online gaming tournament. The SMART Gold Bossa Nova Night with Sitti, as well as the SMART-sponsored Bombo Radyo and Campus Radio events, attracted people of varied music interests. Finally, in what has become a SMART tradition of capping off the entire *Panagbenga* celebration with a huge concert to fete the people of Baguio, the SMART Buddy *Panagbenga* 2007 Barkada Party was held at the Melvin Jones football field, and featured the country's top bands Bamboo and Kamikazee.

Atty. Bangaoet notes that *Panagbenga 2007* enjoyed increased involvement and cooperation not only from local communities but from partner organizations and corporations as well. "SMART's support truly helped make *Panagbenga* a success and we are glad to see this festival build from strength to strength and bring more enjoyment each year," he said.

DAHIL SMART TAYO

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This quiet, unspoilt corner
of Palawan is a place
eager to please

The many faces of Coron

By Genea Padilla
Contributor
Photos by Hans Villarica

THE QUIET ISLANDS OF Coron may look at its famous neighbors and feel a little celebrity envy, but being on the sidelines has its advantages.

Like most of Palawan's hotspots, Coron is largely unspoilt. Its main attractions still sport that "undiscovered" feel.

Fancy lazing about on white sandy beaches, snorkeling in nearby coral reefs, *dugong* watching, diving for wrecks, going on a wildlife safari or maybe hiking with a bit of spelunking thrown in? All of Coron's offerings make it seem like a place eager to please. And please it does.

Filipino tourists in the area are scarce. It's highly likely few of us have heard of the place. That nearly all its visitors come from elsewhere in the world prove Coron's international draw, which for now must make up for its almost nonexistent local one.

When you arrive at Busuanga Airport, there is no clue or hint of what lies ahead. Like most other small domestic airports in the country, this one resembles a glorified airstrip. That, however, is no reason to fret. But the prospect of being swallowed up by the dusty road leading to town might be. So, keep some moist towelettes handy, just in case.

First stop, SeaDive

The town itself is delightfully rustic, with the usual narrow streets and noisy tricycles. Right smack in the middle is one of the most popular dive resorts in Coron: SeaDive.

Dive resorts are the typical jump-off point for most travelers—the majority of whom are divers—who flock to this corner of Palawan. Diving is definitely the main attraction in Coron, but it is only one in a long list.

The popularity of this kind of resort (dive-dedicated, simple setup, basic amenities), one that acts more like a home base in-between dives, may also be due to the lack of things to do in town.

Town life is simple, and the nightlife even more so. Come nightfall, a few eateries and karaoke joints await you. Thank heavens for Helldiver Bar; it's a good place to land for post-excursion drinks. Other than climbing the 700-odd steps to the top of Mount Tapyas, a visit to the Maquinit saltwater hot springs and a trip to the market (which turned out to be the liveliest pursuit), that's about it.

The land time forgot

Need a little adventure to spice up your trip? If diving World War II wrecks or underwater caves doesn't do it for you, a trek to Coron Island (no mix-up here, Coron Island is part of the Municipality of Coron) just might. Aside from being part of an area ripe for ecotourism (due to its excellent biodiversity—Coron Island is home to a number of endemic flora and fauna), the island's allure rests heavily on the incredible beauty of its seven lakes.

The island's most dominant feature, its limestone cliffs, greet visitors like a cinematic backdrop. They are, after all, of Jurassic origin, 65 million years in the making. If you have time to do just one thing in Coron, then visit Kayangan Lake.

In 1998, Coron Island was declared the ancestral domain of the Tagbanua, its indige-

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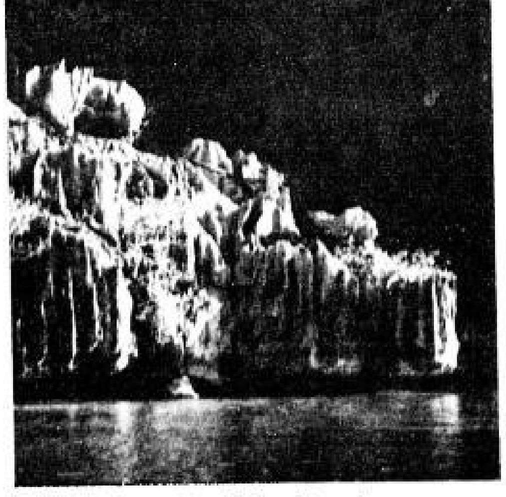
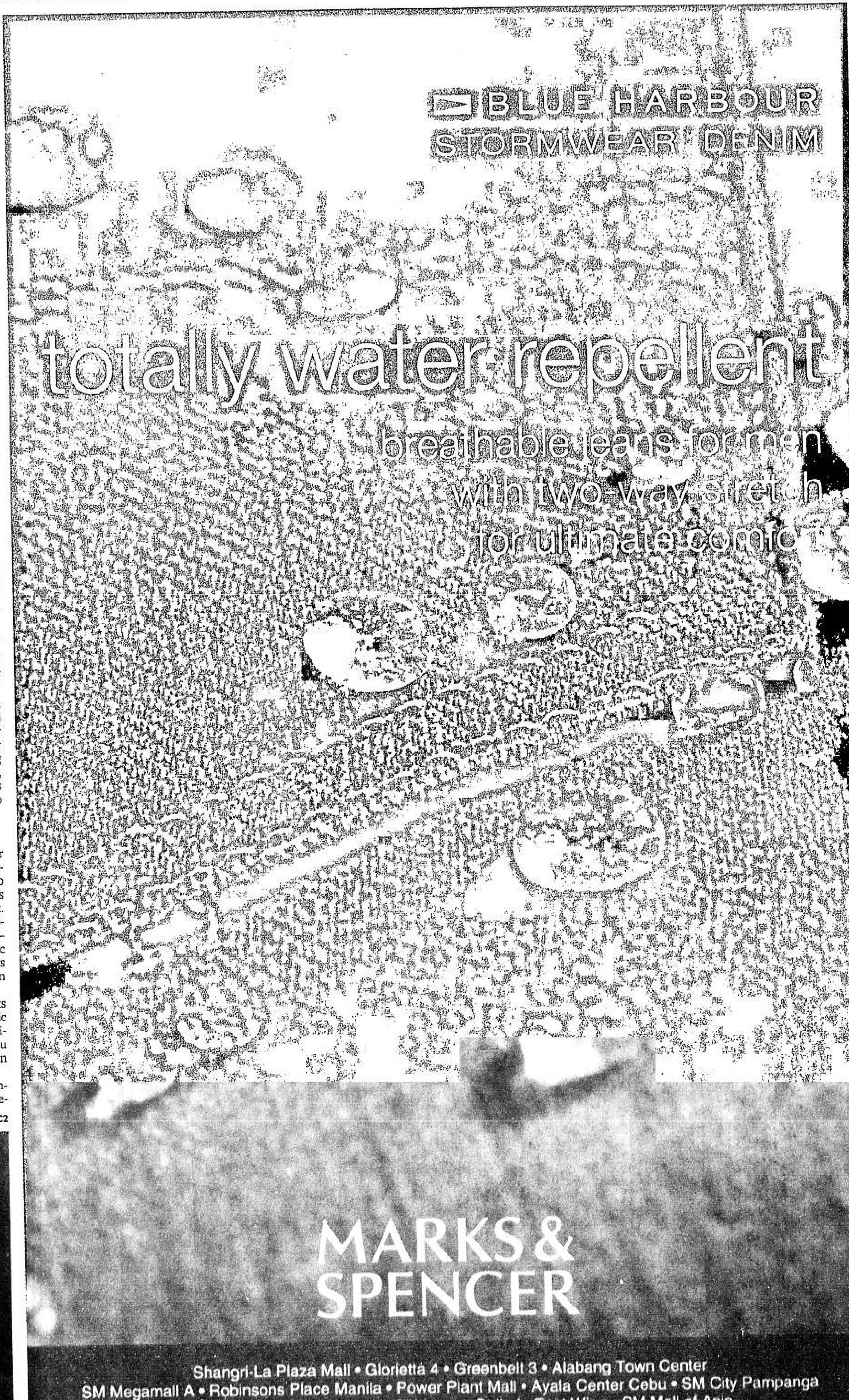

LIMESTONE cliffs of Siete Pecados



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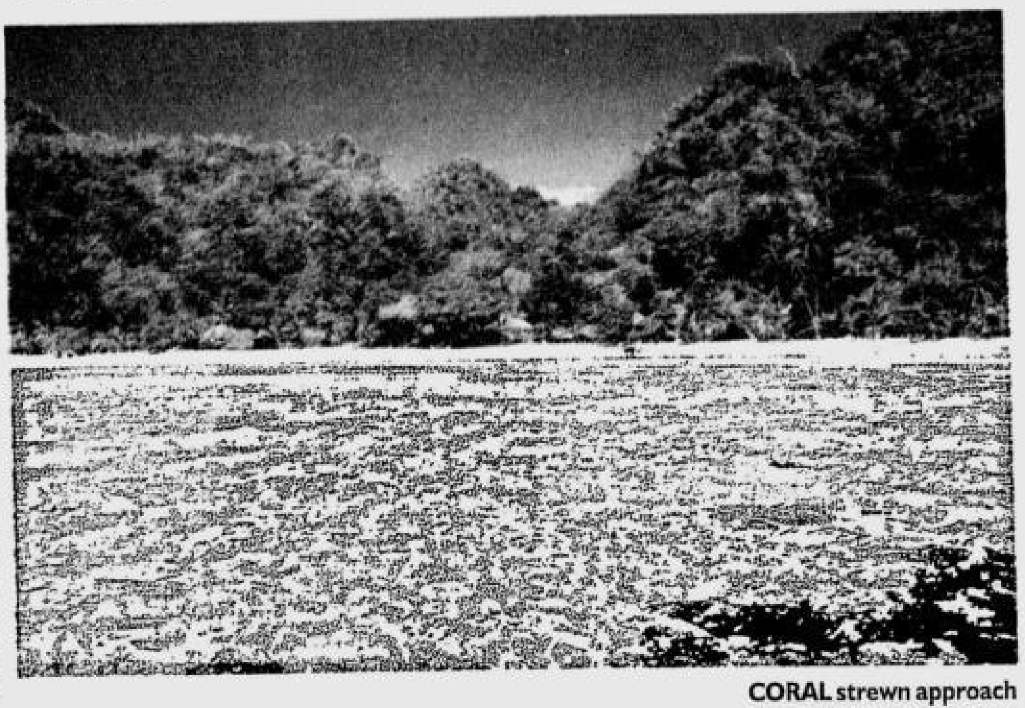
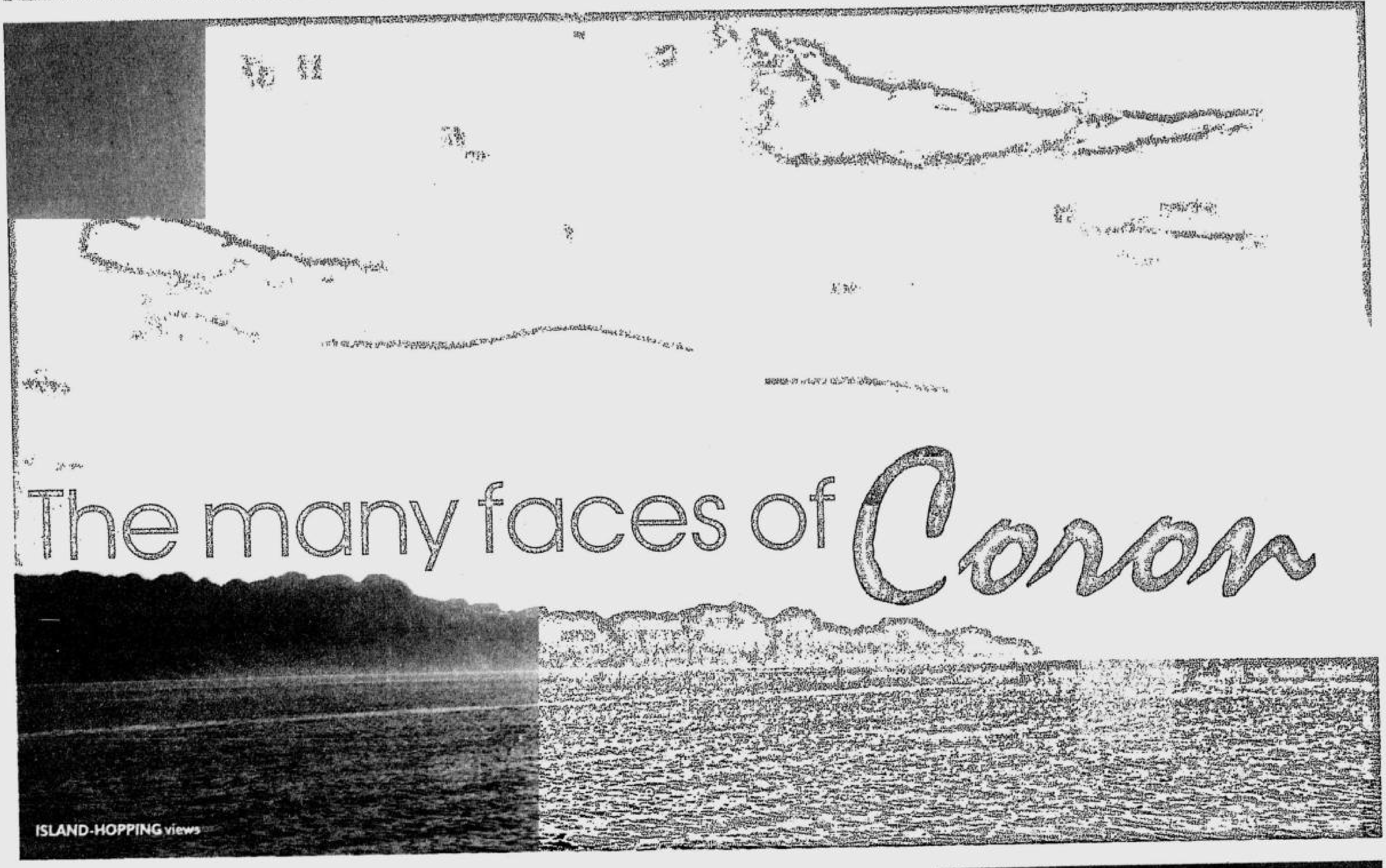
HANGING footbridge route to Sangat's secluded villa in Lambingan Beach



CORAL strewn approach to Sangat Island

The many faces of Coron



ISLAND-HOPPING views

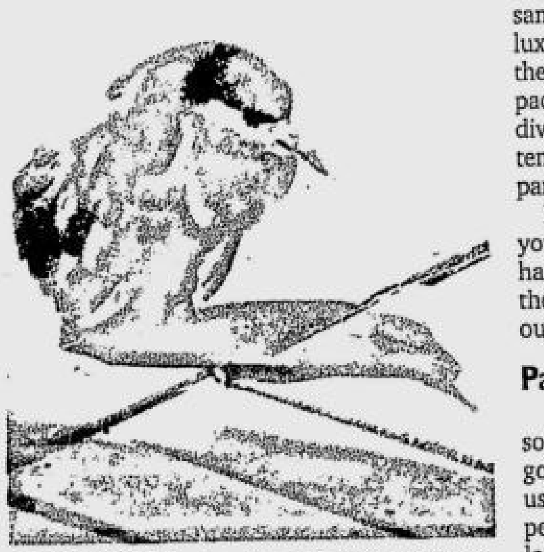
From page C1

nous people who have since been awarded its care and management. Currently, they collect a P200 fee from visitors wanting to enter Kayangan.

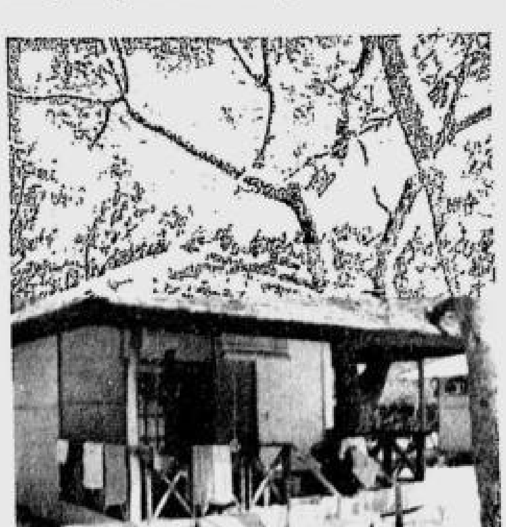
As a concession to safety, a concrete jetty has been built into the rocky limestone shore leading to Kayangan Lake. Before passing through the small *nipa* entrance, visitors must read the rules posted beside it. The Tagbanua are strict and protective of the lake's status as the cleanest inland body of water in the country.

Leading to the lake is a 10- to 15-minute trek up and down uneven steps carved onto the hillside. There are wooden handrails (watch out for that splinter waiting to happen) to help winded travelers along. At the bottom, the view of the lake slowly emerges, framed by overhanging vines and branches. What comes after brings to mind the true definition of "awesome." The lake is so beautiful, so tranquil it can move one to worship.

A similar hike awaits one at Barracuda Lake, except in this case you have to climb sharp limestone "steps"—a very loose definition of the word—to reach it.



A DIMAKYA Island native greets the visitors of Club Paradise.



SUNRISE BEACH. Sea view cottages of Club Paradise

In search of the beach

Miss the feel of sand between your toes? Coron has more picturesque sandy beaches than you can point your little digital camera at. There are Banol, CYC, Malacapuya and Banana Island, to name a few.

If your idea of roughing it is to leave your wedge sandals on the boat, there is hope for you yet. Two places that stand out from the standard resorts and those with just the bare essentials are Sangat Island Reserve and Club Paradise.

The Sangat Island Reserve pretty much has it all. Its location and features make it a well-rounded destination; many of the WW II wreck sites are very near the island's beach. The ambience is easy and relaxed, the accommodations simple yet comfortable.

There are only a few cottages and one secluded villa. British owner Andy Pownall—whose remarkable Tagalog can shock you—has pulled off a good balance between cultivating the island's commercial outlook and keeping its pristine beauty barely touched.

Aside from its beaches, Sangat also has nature walks, snorkeling, bird-watching, cave exploration and its very own geothermal hot spring.

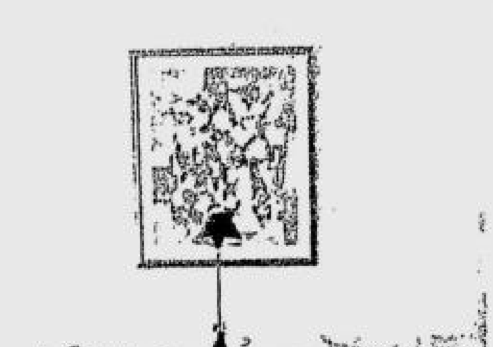
Club Paradise is synonymous to Dimakya Island and its 700-meter stretch of fine, white-sand beach. The accommodations are the most luxurious in Coron, and the facilities probably the most complete. The resort has a well-packed program of activities for divers and non-divers alike. It features a lagoon, a hiking trail, tennis courts and lookout posts affording panoramic views of the neighboring islands.

If you've been stuck with the notion that you could see Palawan only if it went hand-in-hand with five-star accommodations and their matching price tag, happiness is finding out otherwise, thanks to Coron.

Palawan pointers

- **Pack a pair of outdoor sandals.** Okay, so your favorite pair of Havaianas is cute and goes with everything, but it won't be of much use to you when you're sliding down the slippery steps to Kayangan Lake or the sharp ones leading to Barracuda Lake. Local outdoor sandals are up to scratch and are reasonably priced, so don't sweat shelling a few extra bucks if you don't own a pair.
- **Slap on the mosquito repellent.** Futile swatting won't get the buzzing insects off your limbs. Let a generous amount of insect repellent do that for you. Whether the myth that Palawan mosquitoes just laugh off Off lotion is true or not, it's better to be safe than sick and sorry.
- **Mind your cash.** Although most of the bigger resorts accept credit cards, there is only one ATM machine and it is located in town, so manage your cash prudently.

CANDID shot of a Coron lass



SWEET SUITE. The most luxurious accommodations in Coron

flyseair.com

VIEW From the top. Every other seat is a window seat on this 19-seater Seair plane to Busuanga

Special thanks to Gov. Joel Reyes of Palawan, Mayor Marjo Reyes of Coron, Counselor Jim Pe, Louie Cruz, South East Asian Airlines (Seair), Patrick Tan and Pia de Villa of Seair, SeaDive and Club Paradise.

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

Lady of Manaoag replica at NY Philippine Center

AT LEAST 20 RELIGIOUS IMAGES WILL BE exhibited by Filipino sculptor Cornelio "Dondon" Awa Jr. at the Philippine Center in New York March 26-April 6.

At the center of the exhibit is the replica image of Our Lady of Manaoag, patroness of Pangasinan.

Dondon Awa and his wife Josie Bondoc-Awa are making this special exhibit because they are devotees of the Virgin of Manaoag. They even named their store on Tayuman Street, Sta. Cruz, Our Lady of Manaoag Religious Articles.

As a young girl in Apalit, Pampanga, Josie went by bus to Manaoag to pray to the Virgin. She was able to finish her teacher's degree at the National Teachers College by "buying and selling" religious products. Then, she was able to raise money to open a small store.

Dondon was a student at the University of Santo Tomas pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Fine Arts degree, major in painting. To support himself, he apprenticed with master sculptors of religious images.

After college, in 1985, Dondon did statue repairs and restorations. He honed his skills in sculpture using wood and ivory as media.

The sculptor's replica of Our Lady of Manaoag in ivory looks like the image enthroned in the altar in Manaoag Church. He also has a replica of the image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

The exhibit, "Mga Santong Nilikha sa Kamay," is timely for Fil-Americans in New York with the coming Lenten season.

Mary's land

Tierra Maria is a 33-hectare residential farm subdivision in Lipa City. A stone image of Our Lady of All Nations, as well as different statues of the Virgin Mary including Our Lady Mediatrix of All Grace, welcomes visitors at the gate. There are also images of St. Joseph, the Holy Family, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Louis de Monfort, among others.

Developed by Mary's Garden Realty, Tierra Maria Estates has trees and all kinds of vegetation. Visitors can ask to visit by calling 7181505 or sending text messages to 0917-8946328 or 0917-8124545.

Centenary

The children of Dr. Victoria Lopez Araneta, founder of White Cross Orphanage, will mark the centenary of her birth on March 6 at White Cross Orphanage with the unveiling at 10 a.m. by the National Historical Institute of a marker in her honor.

The late Doctor Araneta, wife of the late Dr. Salvador Araneta, founded White Cross 70 years ago. During the occasion, White Cross children will blow out 100 candles. Right now the orphanage has 112 children.

The White Cross actually started as a care center for children of parents with tuberculosis. The institution was a brainchild of Dr. Salvador Araneta. Victoria turned his idea into reality and, with the financial and moral support of Doña Mercedes McMicking, White Cross was established in 1937.

All kinds of children—foundlings, neglected and abandoned—are accepted. The orphanage also has a daycare center and is an accredited adoption agency.

Pilgrimage

The Philippine Center for St. Pio of Pietrelcina Inc. and Adam's Travel, through its chair Rafael Ortigas Jr., president Ramon and wife Didi Rodriguez, are organizing a grand pilgrimage to St. Pio shrine in San Giovanni Rotondo May 9-22.

Call Tez at 0921-9554410 or Adam's Travel at 5211651, or text Ana at 0918-9083676.

Beautiful music

We were able to listen recently to beautiful piano compositions by Robert Schumann under the trees of Paco Park. International concert pianist Leonor Kilayko played Schumann's "Arabeske" Op. 18 and "Humoreske" Op. 20 to mark Philippine-German Month.

Canonization

When Mother Marie Eugenie de Jesus was beatified in 1975 by Pope Paul VI, Menchu Bondoc brought pilgrims to Rome through Philippine American Travel. Little did she know she would one day need Blessed Marie Eugenie's intercession for the miraculous healing of her daughter Risa whose illness left her blind and unable to move.

Now that Blessed Marie Eugenie, founder of the Religious of the Assumption, will be canonized on June 3, in Rome, Menchu will bring Risa in thanksgiving for the miracle.

The child is now a normal Grade IV student at Assumption College. Those wanting to join the trip to Rome can call Menchu at 8102314/18 or text 0918-9100956.

Msgr. Jerome Reyes, parish priest of Binondo Church, was the judge advocate who pushed for the canonization of Blessed Marie Eugenie through the miracle granted to Risa Bondoc. He went to the United States to interview Risa's doctors. The miracle was the one considered by the Congregation of Saints for the canonization.

Msgr. Jerome, by the way, marked recently his 22nd anniversary as a priest. Sixteen priests concelebrated with him. At least 200 people attended the Mass and reception at the Emperor's Villa arranged by Eming Asuncion.

Reunion

The La Consolacion College Alumnae Association, headed by Chit Picache Vizconde as president, will hold a grand reunion on March 10. It will start with a Holy Mass at 11 a.m. at the Mother Consuelo Auditorium. Registration begins 9:30 a.m. For details, text Chit at 0920-9049892 or call 7338408; Margie Limdico at 9262537 or alumnae office at 7361598.

Singing priests

The concert "Buhay n Amen" will be shown on RJTV Channel 19 on Cable March 5, 8 p.m. The concert to raise funds for a home for elderly clergy was held last year at the Assumption College auditorium.

FILIPINO sculptor/artist Dondon Awa with Our Lady of Manaoag

OUR LADY Mediatrix of All Grace at the Marian Park in Tierra Maria Estate

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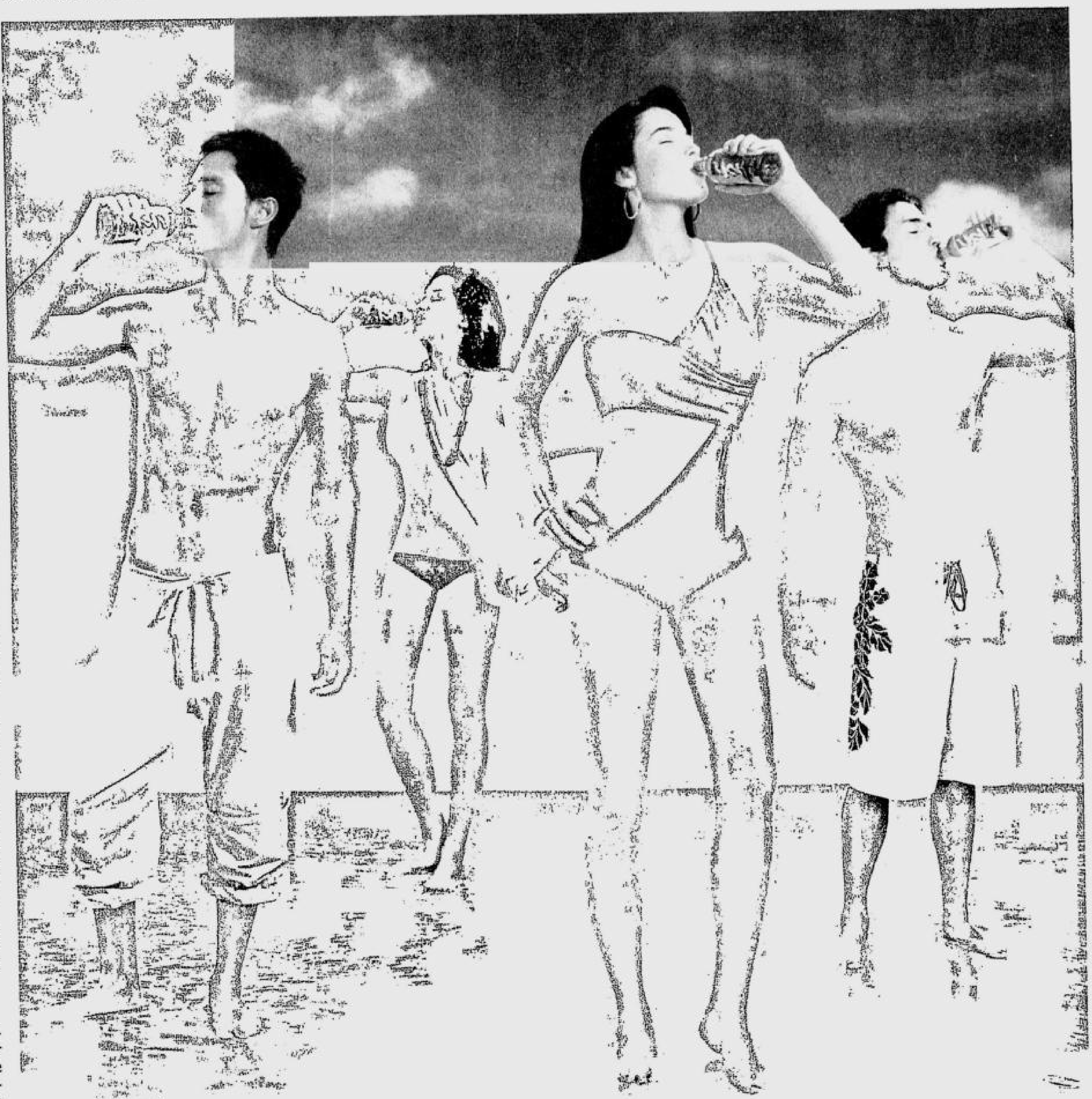
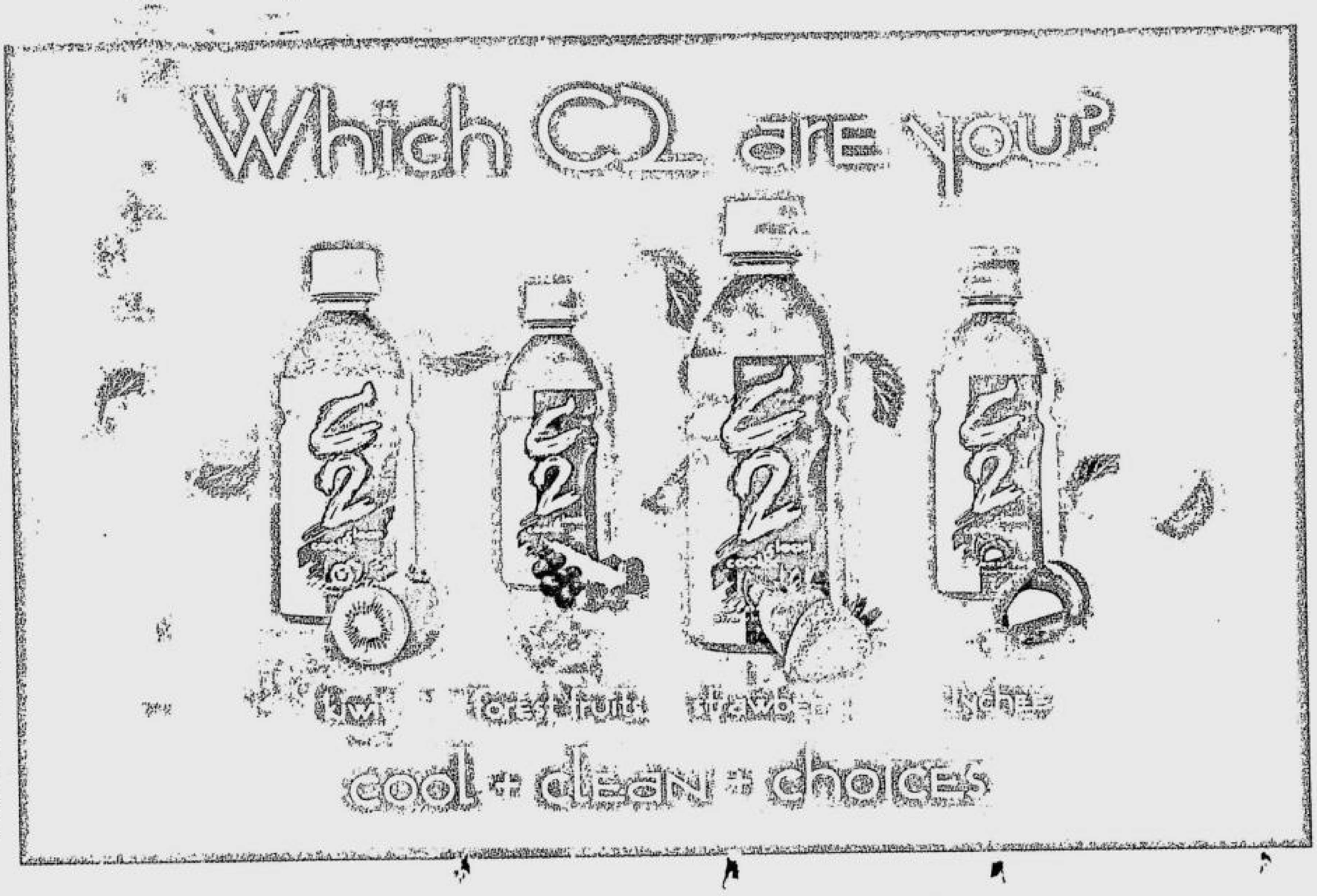
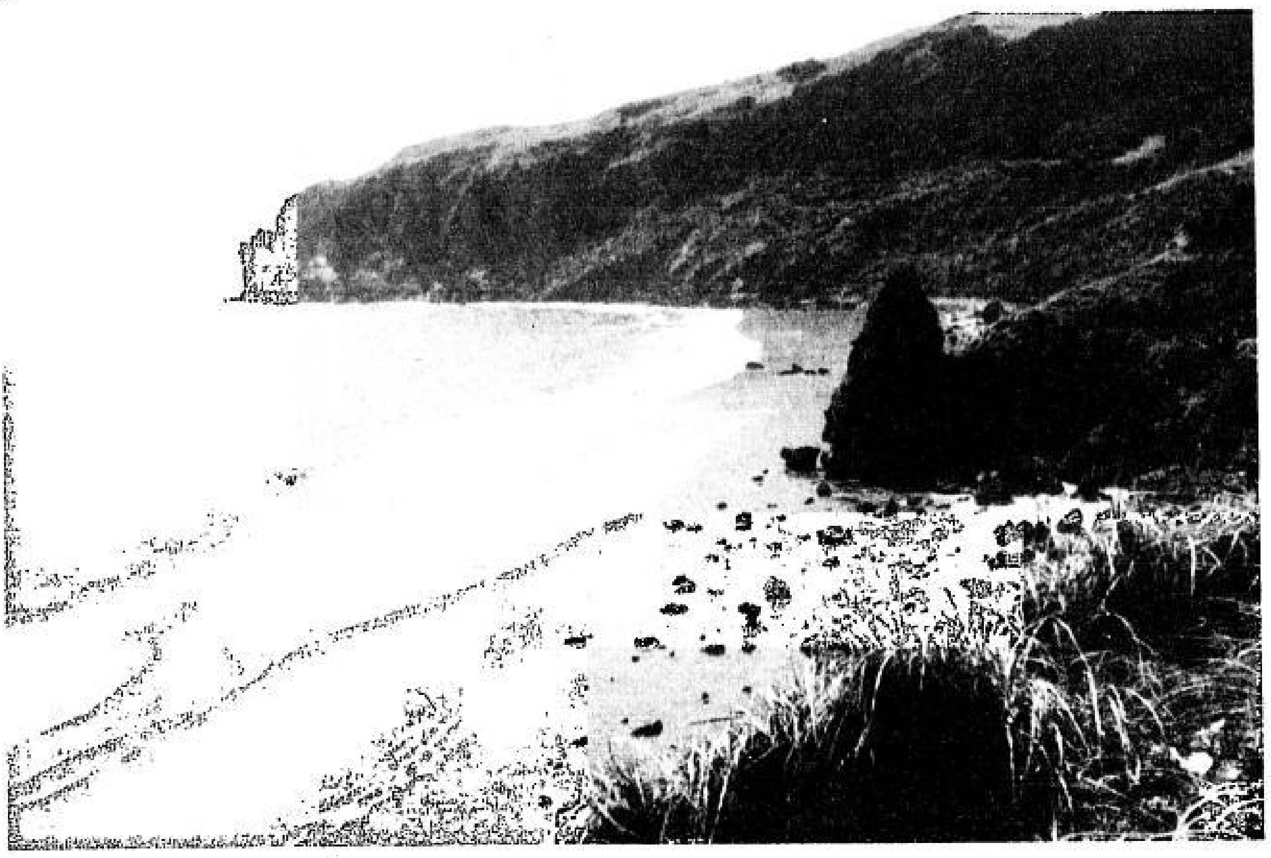




TRAVEL BRIEFS

NAVASERO BATANES PHOTO SAFARI BEGINS APRIL 3

Photographer Mandy Navasero is organizing another Batanes photo safari April 3-7, 12-15, and May 3-6. Navasero is inviting interested parties to join the photo safari, organized in cooperation with Asian Spirit, the only airline that flies to Basco daily except Wednesday, and the Batanes Seaside Lodging and Restaurant. This year, the Batanes photo safari aims to contribute to the restoration of an Ivatan stone house through the Batanes Heritage Foundation Inc. (BHFI). The minimum cost of a major restoration of a stone house is P150,000. BHFI (e-mail bhfi_pi@yahoo.com) is trying to save 1,250 stone houses that feature an environment-friendly vernacular architecture. Navasero's photo studio is at Rm. 227, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City; tel. 8991767; e-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com.



GULF AIR showcased its products and services during the recent 14th Travel Tour Expo at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. Among those featured were the award-winning sky chefs, wider and longer sky beds, luxurious premium cabins, sky nanny and frequent flyer program. Roberto Hukom (center), country manager, is shown with the airline's sales agents at Gulf Air's booth.

Summer weekend tours

Engrande Travel Phils. is offering tour packages this summer ideal for families, couples and the whole *barkada*. Visit Coron, Busuanga, Palawan March 16-18. Join the Banaue and Sagada adventure March 23-25. See the world-famous Banaue Rice Terraces and go spelunking in the caves in Sagada. Go whale-watching in the Bicol and Sorsogon tour March 31.

On Holy Week, April 5-8, choose from the scheduled trips to Ilocos region and Cagayan Valley; Palawan adventure (Puerto Princesa and Underground River); and Bohol via Cebu island skip trip. Call Engrande Travel Phils. (Buenavista Bldg. 2, Quirino Ave., Parañaque City) at 8510361,8511549, 0906-4038954 and 0921-9796165. E-mail engrandephils@yahoo.com.ph.

Bora resort prepares for opening

Discovery Shores Boracay, in cooperation with TeamOrg, held a two-day team-building seminar for its employees to prepare for its opening. The seminar was designed to enhance the capability of the resort's staff to ensure the highest standard of service to clients of the new resort. TeamOrg, short for Training, Events and Meeting Organizers Inc., is a corporate events organizer specializing in designing and conducting team-building activities and other corporate affairs.

Comfortable QC lodgings

ACL Suites in Quezon City offers topnotch accommodations and reasonable rates.

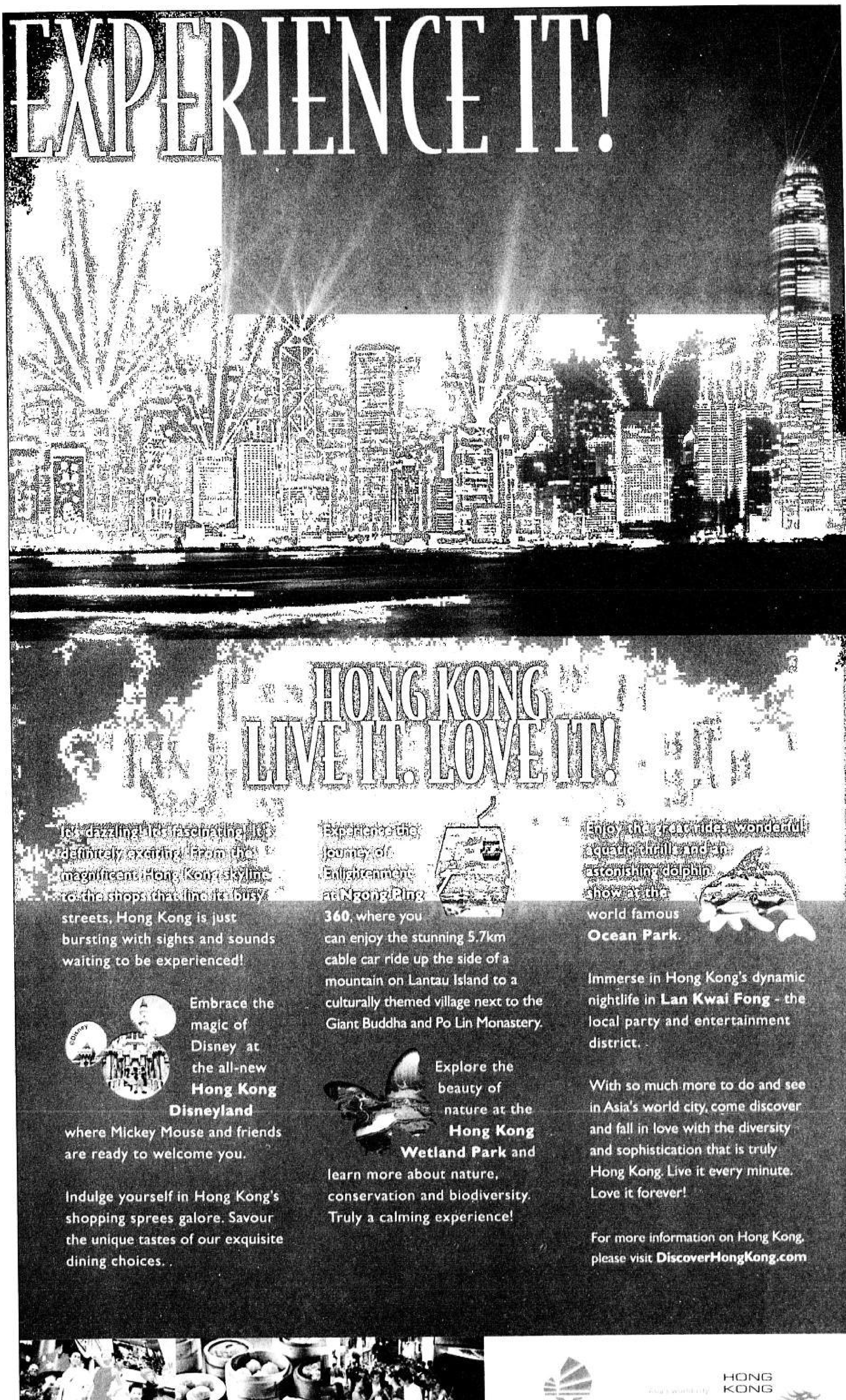
Its interiors feature Asian and Filipino designs. Rates range from P1,000 (full deluxe) and P2,200 (family suite). Guests on extended stay may opt for apartments or office spaces at monthly rates of P7,500-P10,000.

ACL Suites (No. 72 13th Ave., Cubao, QC; tel. 9132123-25) is a stone's throw away from the Araneta Commercial Center. It is near provincial bus and other public transport terminals, light rail and metro rail stations. Ample parking is available.

Two new resorts in Cavite

Mount Sea Resorts is the new chain of hotel resorts in the Southern Tagalog region. Two are fully operational: Mount Sea Fiesta Resort in Rosario, Cavite, and Mount Sea Grand Resort, newly opened, in Capipisa, Tanza, Cavite.

Mount Sea Grand Resort is a 124-room hotel situated on two hectares of prime beach property. Guest rooms are classified into superior, deluxe, deluxe classic, junior and executive. Mount Sea Grand has two F&B venues: the Asian fusion place Yang-tze, and international grill place The Grand Grill. A Safari-themed pool with giant cavern slides is also another highlight of Mount Sea Grand. Mount Sea Fiesta Resort is a 64-room hotel on five hectares of coastal estate. Designed with Filipino hospitality and bed-and-breakfast theme in mind, MSFR's hotel rooms are classified into superior and deluxe. Filipino-Chinese restaurant Tangway and KTV outlet Mardicas are two frequented venues in MSFR, along with the Waterfront family pool. For inquiries into special packages and group reservations, call 3010530 loc. 286-290, or e-mail info@mountsearesorts.com.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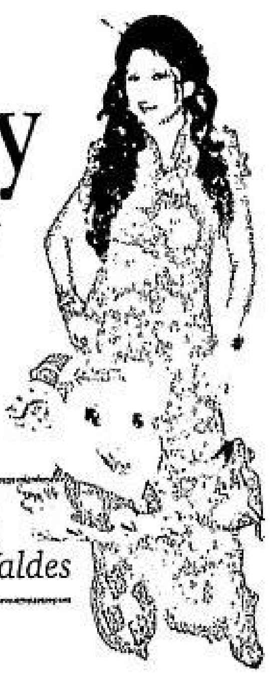
STC GS PEARL '77. Seated: Pamela Tan-Pe Benito, Maricris Victoria-Topacio, Lyra Rufino-Maceda, Fe Sebastian, Cecile Lim-Lazatin, Marie Franco, Marcia Lopez-Miral, Lia Amora-Cruz. Standing: Anna Silva-Castro, Peaches Luciano-Jimenez, Sea Princess, Karen Vistan-Tabungar, Susan Tiongson-Dizon, Rona Wilson-Mendoza, Carina Arcilla-Siazon

Feeling pearly and celebratory

When we Theresians celebrate our ruby anniversary five years from now, we shall be in La Cage aux Folles costumes and do back-bending choreography!



TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

OUR COUNTRY IS PREDOMinantly Catholic yet we seem to be magnets for different philosophies that increase personal harmony or emotional stability. From yoga to *feng shui* to Kabbalah, we are masters of integrating the many into our spiritual core. In fact, the more religious we are, the more we seek to enhance our inner dimensions.

When I started my habit of attending daily mass and doing the Wednesday novena in Baclaran, I simultaneously got engaged in spirituality enhancement through Ashtanga yoga, with free spirit **Bela Lipat**, and recently, the more physically gratifying Bikram yoga, with **Pye Trinidad** and **Tristan Choa**.

FEELING/ D2

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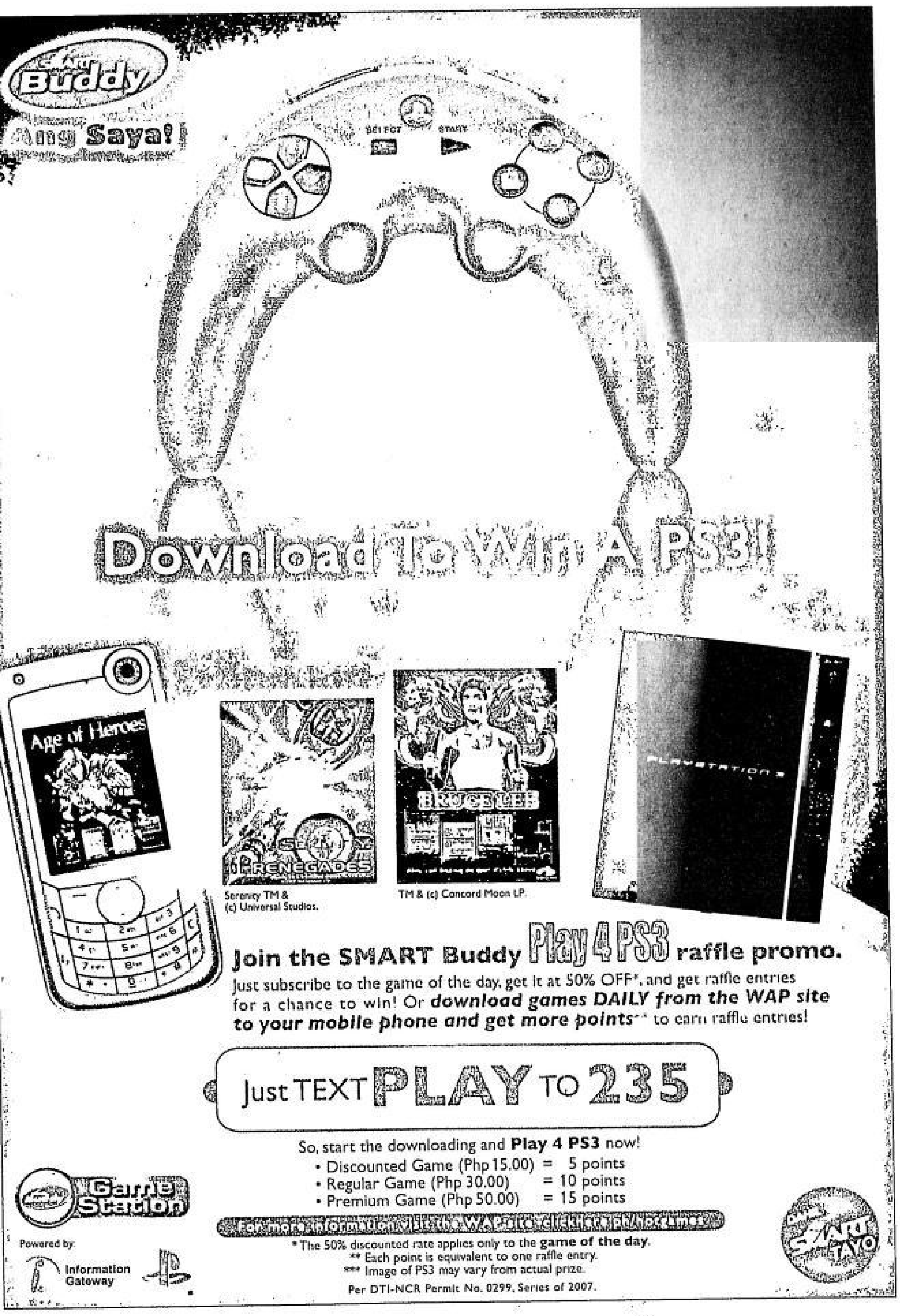

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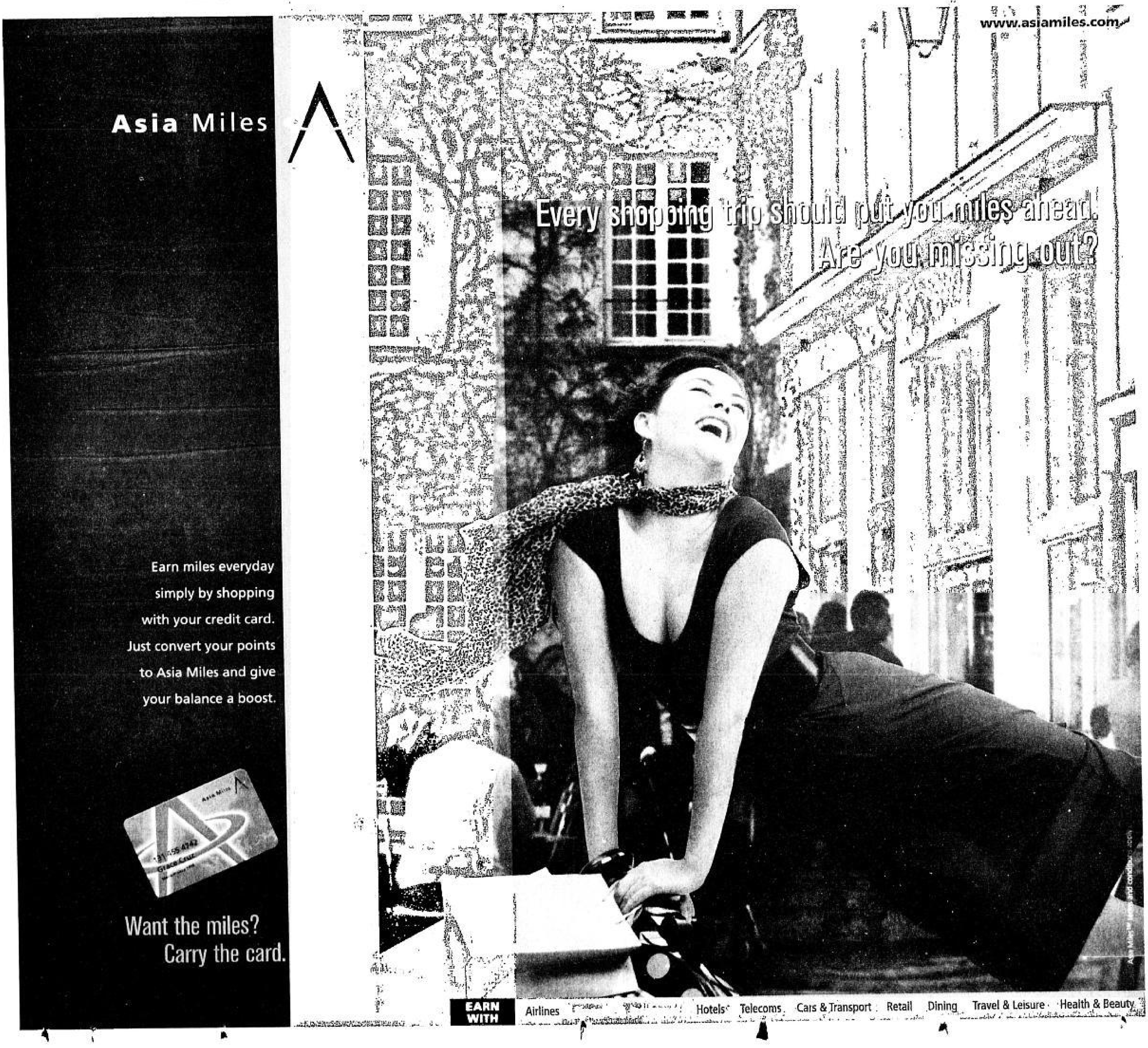

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CELEBRATING STC Manila High School Pearl '77 with good friend Tang Antonio Singson

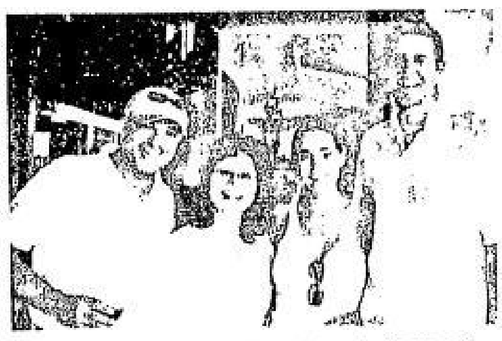
AMERICAN Express Bank officers and staff with Director Freddie Santos

AMEX senior country executive Wellington Ong and Regional Head David Wong with Lion Dancers

Feeling pearly and celebratory

AMEX family Caren Siazon, Nenita Gabaldon, Tissa Tan, Ana Tango, Gil Latorre, Candice Lim, Jeannie Yap and Reggie Ramirez

STC Manila HS '76 Tissa Roxas-Tan, Pinky Nelson, Gelly Borromeo and Mae Amora

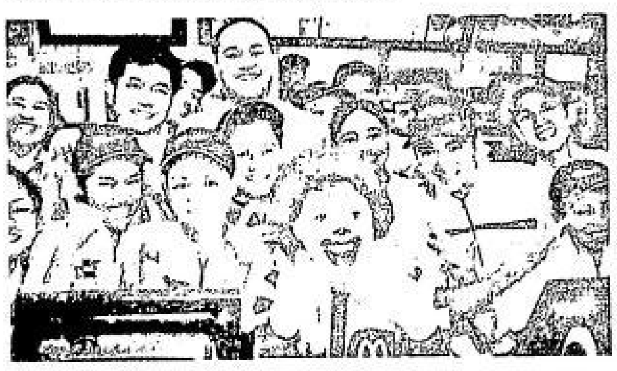


HEALTHY friends Beat Grassi, healer Vidda Chan and Ayurveda couple Paige and Ryan Redman

MISS Universe Class STC HS Coral '72

CELEBRITY moms Jackielou Blanco, Maritoni Fernandez and Yayo Aguila

RONALD McDonald with his royal couple Cindy and Kenneth Yang



MCDONALD'S happy crew behind the counter

From page D1

More recently, my interest in *feng shui* has intensified. In our chaotic world, it's always good to be in sync with cosmic energies and enhance our lives via alignment with our auspicious or lucky stars.

At American Express (Amex) Bank's recent New Year appreciation dinner at the Manila Peninsula ballroom, the celebration integrated Chinese astrology with the country's most talented artists, from soprano and pop singers to classical and hip-hop dancers.

The Year of the Fire Boar is especially good for those born on the Year of the Goat, Monkey and Horse. The grand prize winner of the raffle, who took home two round-trip Cathay Pacific business-class tickets to Beijing, was born in the Year of the Ox, a sign that is ironically not one of the most auspicious this year. Perhaps he augmented his luck by loading up at a World of Feng Shui shop.

"Celebrations" was also the 30th or pearl anniversary of Amex in the Philippines. Pretty mother-of-pearl jewelry boxes in elegant Chinese pouches were given away to guests and members—the true pearls of the bank.

For the dotting ceremony after the Lion Dance, Amex Bank regional head **David Wong** and senior director and country executive **Wellington Ong** were called for the age-old tradition, which signifies the bringing of enlightenment, wisdom and productivity. As David so aptly put it: "This was a tangible expression of the bank's desire to continue serving its members for the next 30 years and beyond."

Golden Monkey **Freddie Santos** artistically directed the show with his flair for drama and witty humor. It was reminiscent of our Assumption Velada show last October. I thought I was done with homecomings for a while but I just realized I am part of Grade School Pearl '77. Truly a pearl coincidence!

Theresian gig

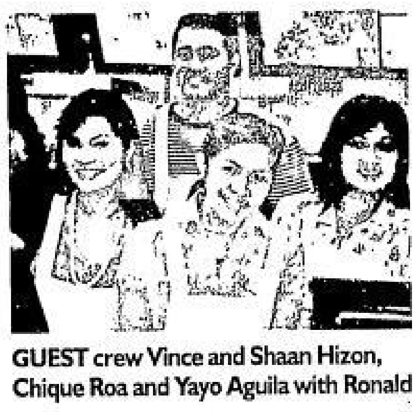
Just when I thought I was all red-plaid Assumption, I got a call from a former grade-school classmate in St. Theresa's College (STC), **Anna Silva-Castro**, inviting me to the homecoming of STC Manila. According to her, we are part of the celebration because our Grade School graduating batch was the last to march before the school was phased out. Hence, we represent the STC GS Pearl '77. I had no idea that the school closed after we left and so a number of my STC classmates moved to Assumption for high school.

A good-enough-for-blackmail yearbook was being passed around with hilarious mug shots of teenyboppers in STC blue uniforms. The loudest laughter among the Theresians at the Wack-Wack Country Club ballroom was from our table because most of us had not seen each other in decades!

STC was my alma mater from Grades 5-7, when Assumption Herran was converted into the Robinsons Galleria Mall. With STC Manila also gone, the celebrations are now held off-campus, unlike the annual STC Quezon City that has its big homecoming every February.

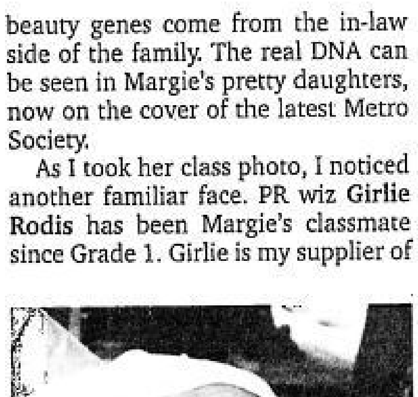
I felt like a friendly intruder at the celebration since there were so many "You're from Assumption!" comments. After lengthy explanations though, I was warmly welcomed. I told my grade school batch that come ruby celebration five years from now, we should dominate the show! They looked both excited and horrified at the potential future filled with La Cage aux Folles costumes and back-bending choreography!

On my way out, I bumped into maybe the most famous graduate of the school, former Miss Universe **Margie Moran-Floirendo**. She is actually a relative of one of my Rufino cousins, **Tissa Roxas-Tan**. I am trying to somehow trace a beauty lineage from Margie to me, but I guess her beauty genes come from the in-law side of the family. The real DNA can be seen in Margie's pretty daughters, now on the cover of the latest Metro Society.



GUEST crew Vince and Shaan Hizon, Chique Roa and Yayo Aguila with Ronald

As I took her class photo, I noticed another familiar face. PR wiz **Girlie Rodis** has been Margie's classmate since Grade 1. Girlie is my supplier of suggested books to read. And if I don't have time, I read vicariously through her. Her latest pick from National Bookstore and PowerBooks is "The Secret" by **Rhonda Byrne**. This inspirational tome focuses on visualization to capture dreams, wishes and desires. The universe does not recognize negative or positive patterns but the thoughts come through. So by thinking positive and sending off the right signals, things happen.



PDI CEO Sandy Romualdez's new addition Nicholas Alexander Maximilian

FUN cousins Jake and Marisun Uichico

McDo's clean philosophy

So now, I am thinking that eating my favorite french fries from McDonald's is not bad at all. It is, after all, my comfort food. At the McDonald's Open Doors Program, modern-day moms were invited to go behind the scenes and see firsthand the food quality and highly sanitized food stations.

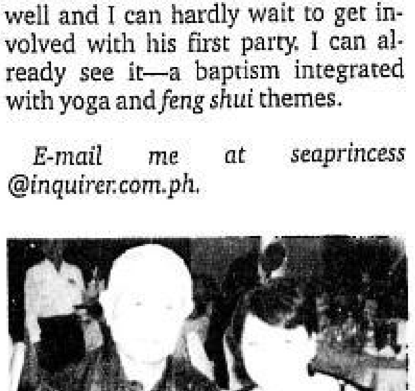
McDo has always focused on delivering quality, service, cleanliness and value. The crew wash their hands every hour and sanitize every 30 minutes. They also wear different gloves per area and even use color-coded spatulas. And now, in the spirit of transparency, it's all there for us to see.

Ever going beyond, McDonald's head **Kenneth Yang** has incorporated numerous charity projects focused on less privileged children into their corporate programs. As we can see, even McDonald's knows that good deeds and positive thinking must be part of their corporate philosophies.

Let me end this week with a special congratulations to my sister, **Sandy**, who just gave birth to **Nicholas Alexander Maximilian**, her third son. Mom and baby are doing very well and I can hardly wait to get involved with his first party. I can already see it—a baptism integrated with yoga and *feng shui* themes.

E-mail me at seaprincess @inquirer.com.ph.

WORLD-CLASS performers Bo Cerrudo and Rachelle Gerodias



BANK friends Cesar and Joy Virata

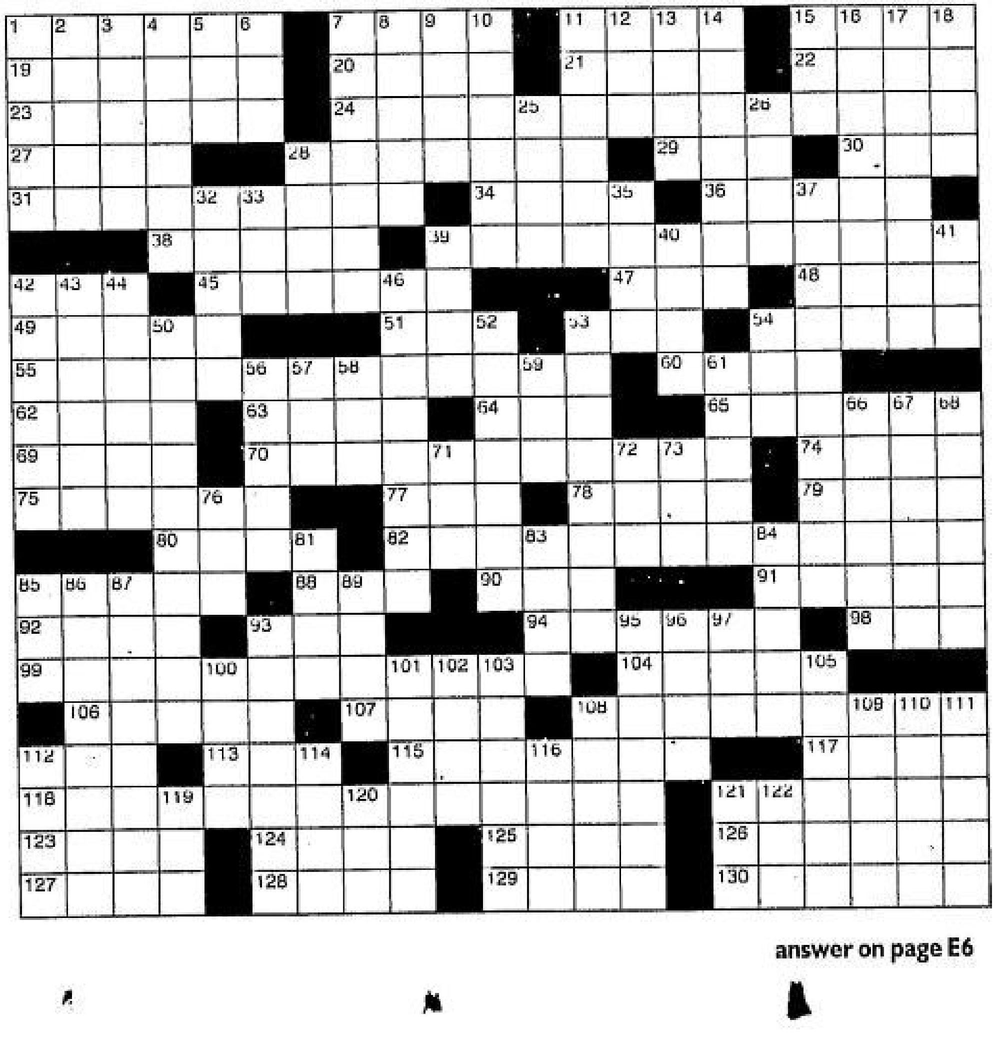
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

TAKEN IN

ACROSS
1 Very distant celestial object
7 Auto engine parts
11 Leak sound
15 Game VIPs
19 Free, as a captive bird
20 "The African Queen" scriptwriter James
21 Troop group
22 Prefix with legal
23 Magic charm
24 Singer of "Adia" and "Angel"
27 Abominable snowman
28 AAA, e.g.
29 Scanning gizmo: Abbr.
30 Cooling cubes
31 Co-founder of Apple
34 Ostrich look-alikes
36 Jeweler's unit
38 Ancient Greek market
39 1988 Olympics diving star
42 Rural refusal
45 Moses parted it
47 Polo official
48 Nero's 301
49 Emerged
51 Thing in a pod
53 Hollywood's Thurman
54 Clay target shooting
55 Gold-medal skater at the 1984 Olympics
60 Mil. alliance since 1949
62 "Mask" star
63 The "E" of Q.E.D.
64 Mailed doc.
65 — grouse (state bird of PA)
69 Suffix with million
70 "Tiny Alice" playwright
74 San — (Italian resort)
75 Auction off anew
77 Shar- — (dog breed)
78 Dumbo's "wings"
79 Netman Nastase
80 Examination
82 "The Betsy" novelist
85 Novelist Rona
88 Workplaces for RNs
90 Mao — -tung
91 Poplar variety
92 Pet pest
93 Word after Ginnie or Fannie
94 "— Heroes" (old sitcom)
98 Trauma-trained pro
99 Soprano who's a Dame
104 "Put — in it!"
106 Flynn waving a sword
107 Leaning Tower home
108 Orioles Hall-of-Famer
112 Even one
113 Tell a little lie
115 Pizza joint menu item
117 Icicle locale
118 Theme of this puzzle
121 Group of seven
123 Just slightly
124 Circus barker
125 New Age singing star
126 Stretch out
127 Descartes or Magritte
128 Funnyman Johnson
129 Optimistic
130 Owl against pollution

DOWN
1 Wharves
2 Not taken care of, as needs
3 Sharp
4 Spitball stuff
5 Grow older
6 Getting a pension: Abbr.
7 Winter melons
8 Laboratory gels
9 Cougar maker, briefly
10 Paint basecoat
11 "Bah!"
12 Ltd., in the U.S.
13 Grain holder
14 Heap high
15 Auto speed abbr.
16 Bravery
17 Rehearse
18 Not neurotic
25 Newsman Brit
26 Cliff rock
28 Bungee, e.g.
32 Swamp bird
33 Actor Pesci
35 Urban blight
37 Meat section for a barbecue
39 Scottish Highlander
40 Arabian land
41 Use a chair
42 Winston Cup org.
43 Jughead's pal
44 Suitors
46 Grave messages
50 Temporary outdoor festival
52 Accepted guilt humbly
53 Eccentric "Seinfeld" character
54 "Rugrats" dad
56 Foot parts
57 Suffix with dull or drunk
58 Animal's gullet
59 — roll
61 "Am not!" retort
66 Baseballer Alou
67 Rapper with an Oscar
68 Fails to
71 Stephen of the screen
72 Wretched
73 Make a flub
76 Janzen of golf
81 Heavy wood
83 Worker safety org.
84 Port in Iraq
85 NYC airport
86 Estrange
87 Charon, e.g.
89 Gather in a crop
93 Rocker Etheridge
95 Deny
96 Zenith
97 Trio before Q
100 Soybean stuff
101 Kidman of "Malice"
102 "Stat!"
103 Matthau or Mitty
105 Sticky-fingered sort
108 Outback babies
109 Defeated in chess
110 Cowgirl Dale
111 "I Am Woman" singer
112 Over yonder
114 Boxer Max
116 — of Elea
119 Keats work
120 Not "dis"
121 Hack down
122 Skeleton head?



answer on page E6

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Unconsummated passion

DEAR EMILY,

I am a professional. I am in my 40s and I have a certain fascination with an office mate.

I have not gone far with this woman, but I am "morally infirm" nonetheless. My personal experience is an example of how easy it is to say, wish or think (of her and me being together). Yet it is so difficult to put my thoughts or wishes into action.

I know it is not right, but I am not willing to stop at this point. There is an unexplainable high whenever I am with her or just electronically connected to her.

This is not to say I feel less for my wife now, but it seems I am in a different world with this other woman. I have no intentions of getting into a more serious commitment with her.

Besides, just as a common workplace brought us together, physical separation will probably end whatever relationship we have. She is due to leave for the United States later this year. Any comments about my situation?

WILL

Your letter is cryptic as much as it is vague. What exactly did you want for an answer?

This woman gives you a certain high and you are cocky enough to believe that everything will end the moment she leaves for another country. Hurray for you!

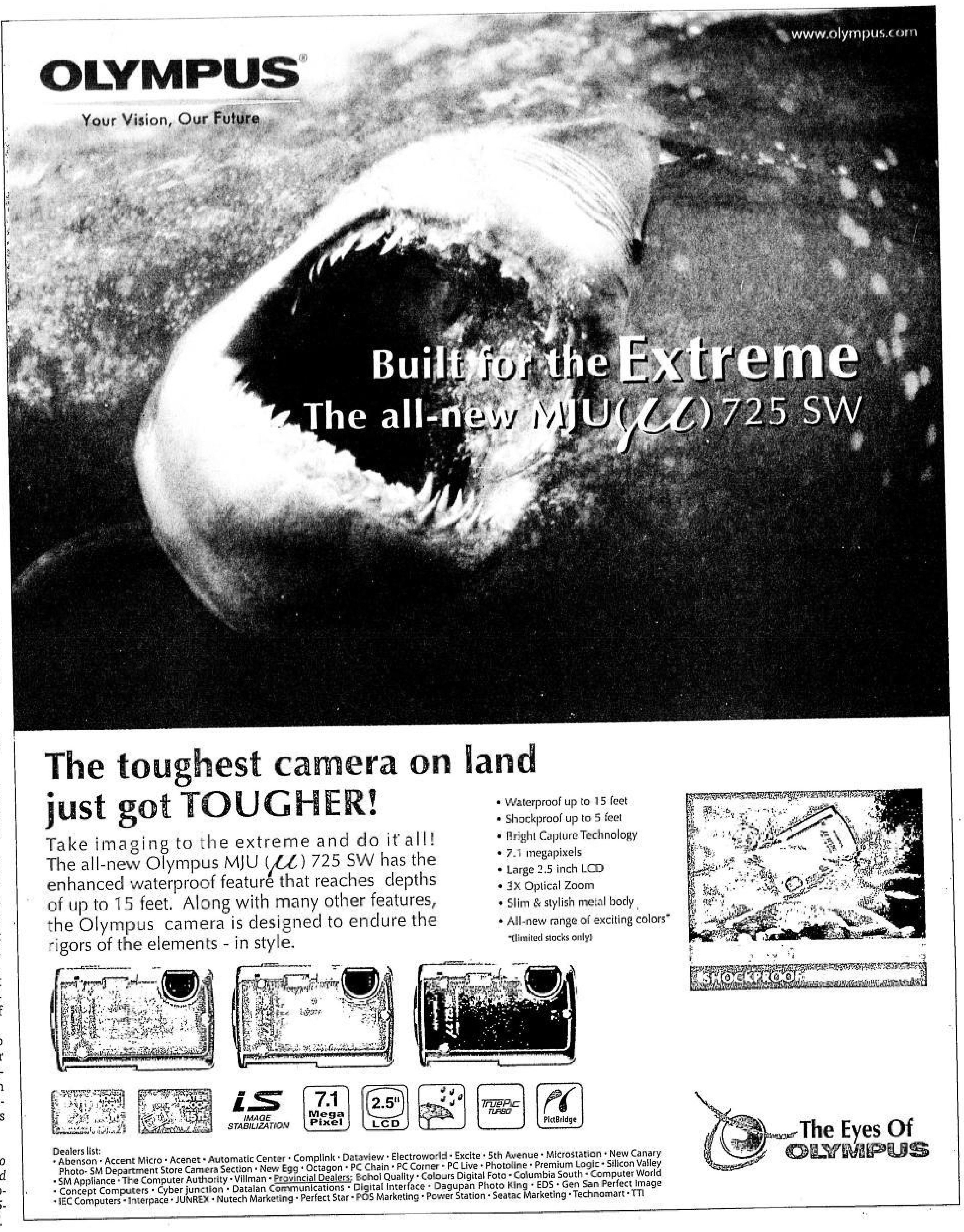
Apparently you have not heard or you possibly just shrug off the saying "absence makes the heart grow fonder."

There is something about your letter that suggests boredom. Could this esoteric "affair" and its adrenalin rush make you get out of bed and give you the indulgence of a high?

It may seem benign to you now, whatever it is that is eating you up, but do not underestimate the power of suggestion, or the power of a subliminal craving.

You may think you have the goods to thwart your desires now, but what if your aspirations involving her create a roller-coaster frame of mind and wreak havoc on your emotions later because of non-consummation? What then? Would you be as smug?

E-mail the author at emarcelo @inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*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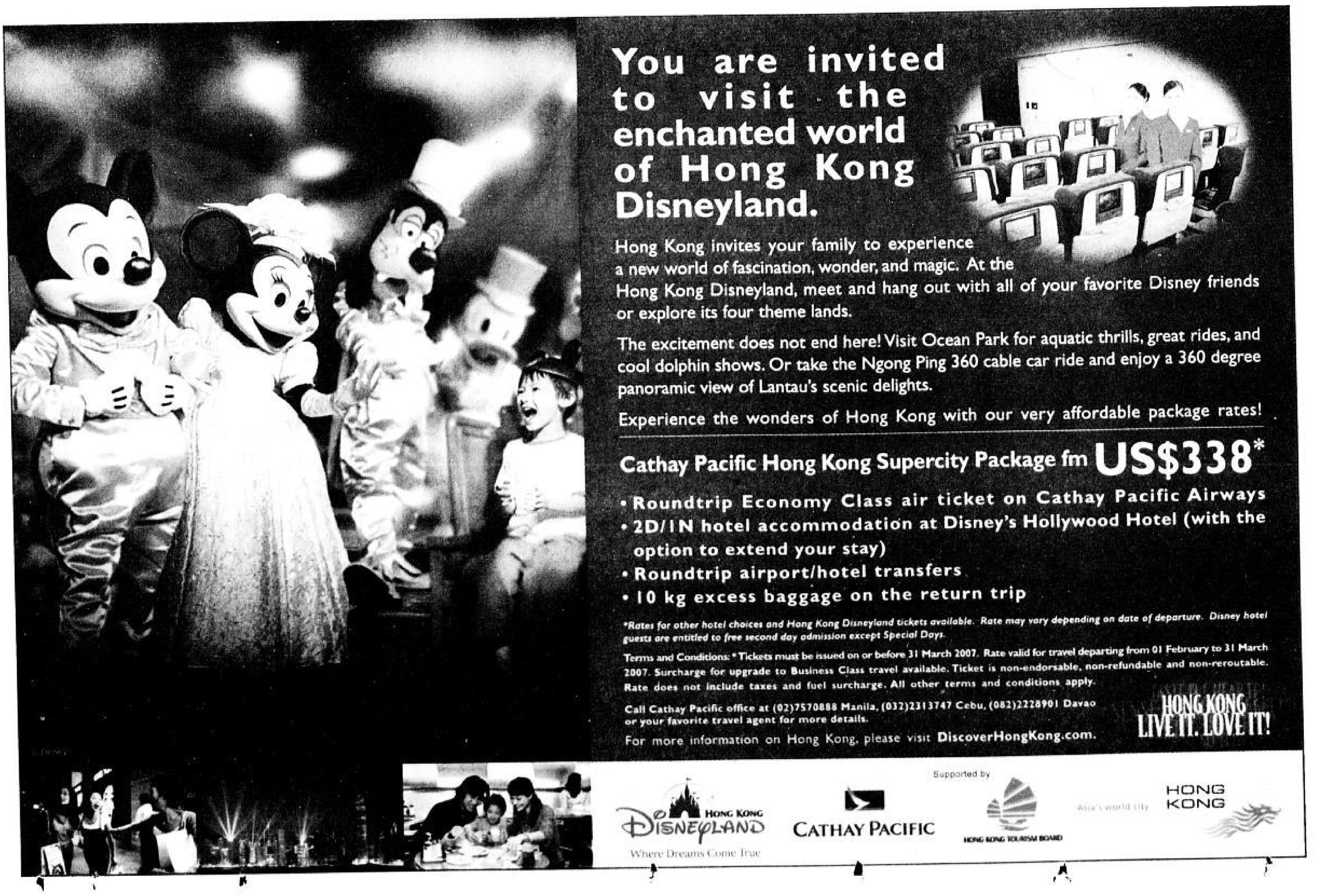
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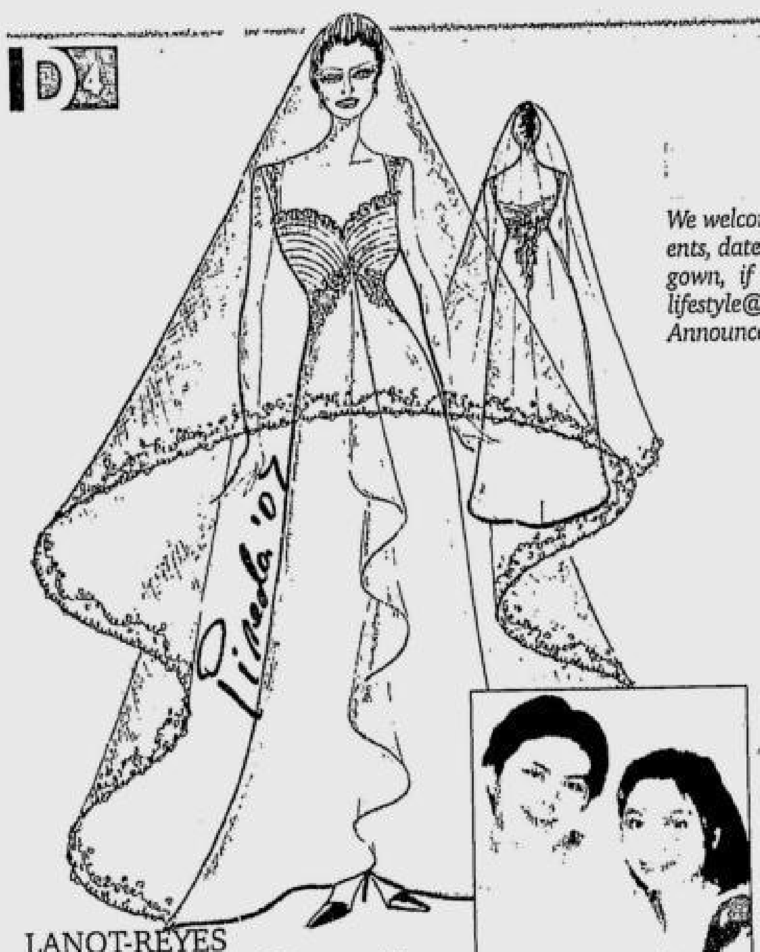

LANOT-REYES

Kohjih Lanot, son of **Xyrus** and **Evangeline Lanot**, will wed **Christel Reyes**, daughter of **Roberto** and **Carolyn Reyes**, on March 10, at the Bonsai Garden, University of the Philippines Diliman, QC. **Eric Pineda** designed the bride's gown in ivory silk chiffon. It has an empire-cut pleated bodice mixed with horsehair and French lace embellished with faux pearls, caviar beads and crystals. A floor-length veil cadenete embroidered double-width illusion tulle completes the ensemble.

YUMUL-UY

Dr. **Allen Dayrit Yumul**, son of engineers **Orlando** and **Connie Yumul**, will wed Dr. **Anjanette del Rosario Uy**, daughter of Dr. **James** and **Teresita Uy**, on March 18, at the Minor Basilica of San Sebastian. **Edward Teng** designed the bridal gown.

NERI-MANLUTAC

Ryan Neri, son of **Eliseo** and **Marites Neri**, will wed **Karen Jill Manlutac**, daughter of **Ricardo** and **Nympha Manlutac**, on March 8, at Sta. Maria Goretti Parish in Paco, Manila. Reception follows at Pearl Garden Hotel in Malate.

SUNGA-CANCINO

Christian Sunga, son of engineer **Jorge** and **Adora** (*née* **de Leon**) **Sunga**, recently married **Kathrina Cancino**, daughter of professor **Corino** and **Victoria Cancino**, at St. Peter's Parish Church, Commonwealth Ave., QC. Reception followed at the Imperial Palace Suites. **Lloyd Arceo** designed the bridal gown.

JAVIER-ALANO

Engineer **Jeffrey Serrano Javier**, son of **Honorato** and **Amelia Javier**, will wed engineer **Cherry Lou Longcob Alano**, daughter of **Ruben** and **Azucena Alano**, on March 18, at the Lakeview garden of Days Hotel Tagaytay.

ULEP-IDOS

Ferdinand Ulep, son of Gen. and Ms **Elpidio Ulep**, will wed **Jesusaloida Idos**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Antonio Idos**, at 4 p.m., April 14, at Mary Immaculate Parish (Nature's Church), Apollo II St., Moonwalk Village, Talon V, Las Piñas.

GUMAYAN DEBUT

Rachel Ann B. Gumayan, daughter of **Ronald** and **Lina Gumayan**, recently had her debut at the Mansion Garden, Iloilo City. She is a second-year BS Management Accounting student of Central Philippines University, Iloilo City.

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Top floral stylists in wedding expo

THREE OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP floral stylists will be featured in the 10th Wedding Expo Philippines, March 10-11, at the Philippine International Convention Center, Cultural Center of the Philippines complex.

Robert Blancaflor, Henry Pascual and Tony Rodriguez style important events like weddings and debuts. Their creations influence the ambiance of these special occasions.

Blancaflor, Pascual and Rodriguez make it a point to understand their clients' personality and create arrangements suited to it.

With these three "magicians," there are no seasonal flowers. They are able to obtain hard-to-find blooms even during the off-season and import them if necessary.

Blancaflor's work will be showcased at the main exhibit hall in Forum 2. Pascual will be at Forum 3 and Rodriguez presents his 2007 forecast in Forum 1.

The three also worked on special lounges that will serve as rest areas for expo visitors.

Over 300 exhibitors are featured during the two-day event. They include fashion designers, limousine providers, souvenir makers, fireworks manufacturers, cake artists, musicians and entertainers, coordinators and planners, jewelers, etc.

ROBERT Blancaflor centepiece

Also featured is Wedding Banquets Manila 2007 with Hizon's Catering as lead caterer. It will showcase banquet setups from the simplest to the most elaborate.

A Wedding Expo Philippines "loot bag" will be given to guests and a commemorative CD of well-loved wedding music will be handed out to pre-registered soon-to-weds. The CD's carrier single, "You're Everything I Need," was composed by multi-awarded songwriter Trina Belamide.

Every P1,000 worth of onsite booking entitles guests to a raffle coupon. Grand prize is a honeymoon trip to Hong Kong for three days and two nights. Hourly raffles will also be held.

Wedding fair at the bay

CHU-U-YEN EVENTS AT 1 Esplanade recently presented the two-day wedding and debut fair Romancing the Bay.

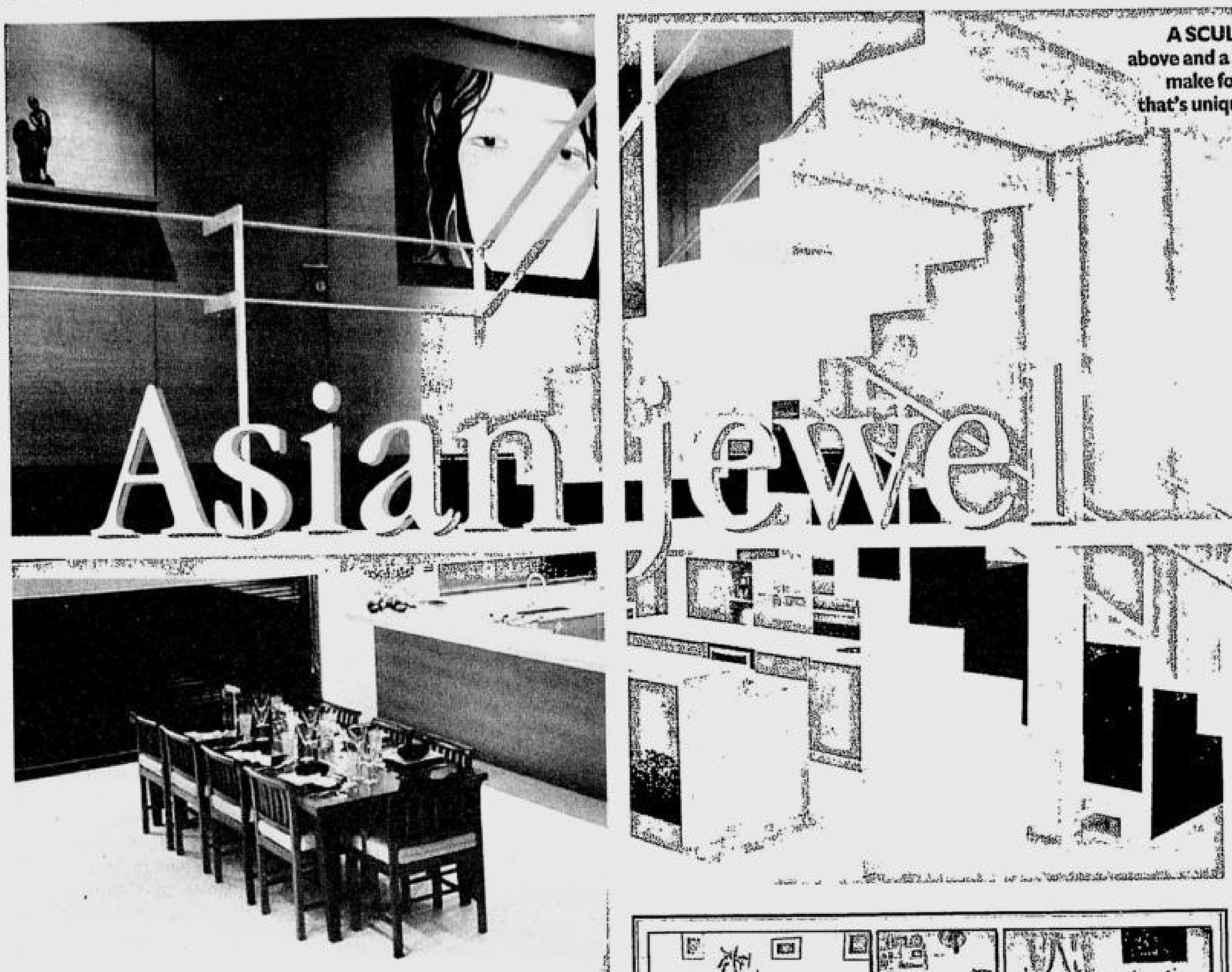
Guests during the ribbon-cutting were 1 Esplanade's Richelle Layco and Riqui Raymudo and event sponsor Joseph Hizon.

With the theme "Wedding by the Bay, the Filipino Way," the event's highlights included a *calesa* parade by Mervin Galang of Party Channel; fashion shows featuring collections by Sammy Amante Jr. and hair and makeup by Casandra Dy; musical fireworks by Dragon Fireworks backed up by logistics from EMS Lights & Sounds; a parade of limousines from Robert Camba; and cotillion and wedding dance by Girlie Espinosa's Le Danz.

SAMMY Amante Jr.'s bridal collection

A fortune-cookie treat gave guests a chance to win freebies from sponsors. Lucky couples went home with the Celestial diamond wedding ring. Lily Flower Boutique raffled off bridal bouquets on the last day of the fair.

Sunday LIFESTYLE at HOME



Asian Jewel

A SCULPTURAL staircase above and a sunken area below make for a multilevel affair that's uniquely modern Asian.

A *BULOL* from the north amid sparse tropical plants in the rear garden

Jewelry designer Wyn Wyn Ong's newly refurbished abode celebrates the spirit of the Orient

Story on page E3

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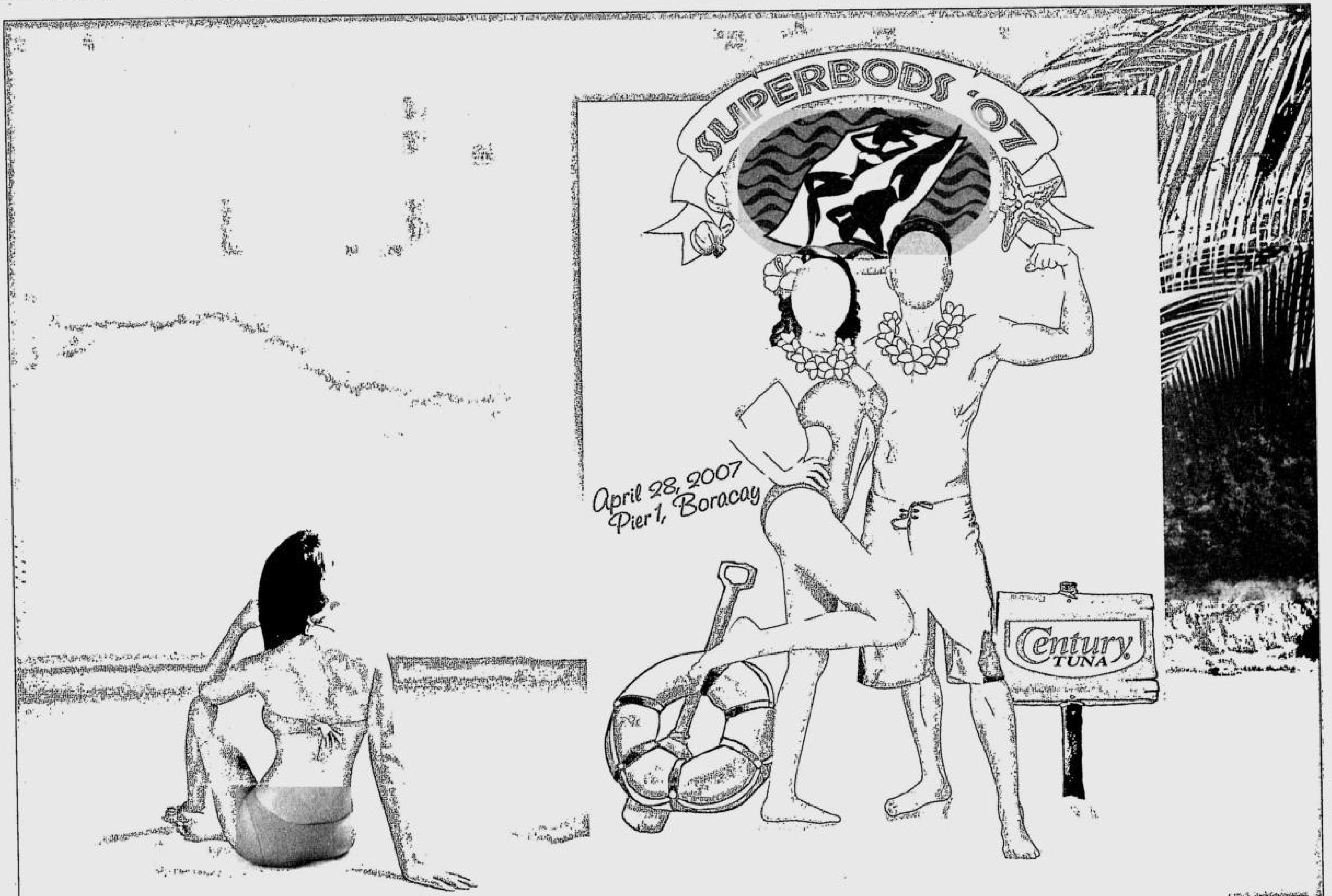

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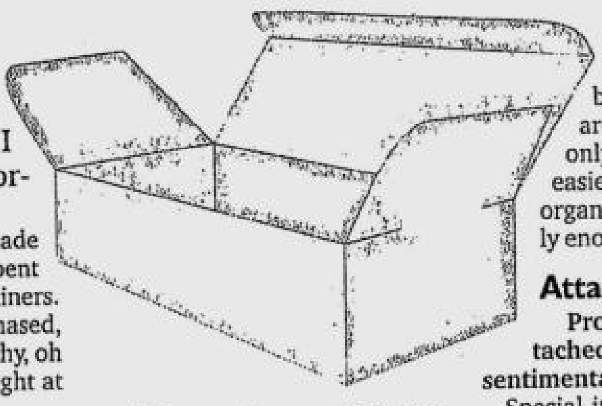
Hurdles to organizing

By Kathleen Ong
Contributor



WHEN WILL I be happily organized?"

Efforts have been made again and again. Money spent on numerous storage containers. Organizing books purchased, read and highlighted. So, why, oh why does one not see the light at the end of the tunnel?

Here's a list of organizing obstacles almost everyone can relate to.

Problem: "I have a hard time throwing things away. It's *sayang*."

You don't have to throw anything out. Things you are no longer using, you can pass on to people who will benefit from them. That's not throwing out.

Consider: The 80-20 Rule. You only use 20 percent of what you own. It's more *sayang* if items are stuck in your space gathering dust and molds. Then nobody benefits. In the meantime, who's getting stressed seeing all that stuff?

Problem: "But, I might need it someday!"

You have every right to want to keep or hold on to anything you want. After all, if you think hard enough, anything can be used for someday, somehow.

Consider: When that "someday" comes, will you even remember that you have "it"? We keep so many things and often forget about them. It's okay to want to keep things, provided you can find them when you need them. If not, what's the point?

Problem: "I get overwhelmed by it all."

Too many rooms, too much stuff. It can be overwhelming. Imagine having to deal with a lifetime's worth of possessions!

Consider: We all get overwhelmed and tired. The ones that finish the race are the ones who stop and take a breath and then continue on. Don't beat yourself up. As they say, Rome wasn't built in day.

Problem: "I don't know where to start."

The bedroom? Office? Closet? Start on an area that's most frequently used. From that area, choose a spot to work on.

Consider: Your personal style. Do you prefer tackling easier jobs to help you build momentum as you go? Or do you prefer diving into the more challenging spots because, after that, everything else is easier? Whichever way you decide to move forward, the important thing is to just start, keep at it and see it through.

Problem: "I think I have a tendency to be a perfectionist."

Getting obsessed with all the nitty gritty of things takes too much time and effort and will surely overwhelm you. Perfectionism is one root cause why many people are never satisfied with their organizing efforts.

Consider: What is the "ideal"? Is it realistic? The systems that work best are the ones that are simplest. They not only work but are the easiest to maintain. Being organized enough is usually enough.

Attachment to things

Problem: "But I'm attached to things. I'm very sentimental."

Special items linked with special memories. Honor the keepsakes by storing them properly instead of stuffing them all in one corner to be forgotten or, worse, ruined.

Consider: Taking a picture. Gather all keepsakes that eat too much space, things that serve no purpose except as simple remembrances. Snap! Print the photo taken and behind it note which item came from whom. Voila! You'll remember them forever without sacrificing space!

Problem: "I don't want to give things to just anyone."

Even if you have successfully sorted out the to-give-aways from the to-keeps, months later you'll still have all those boxes.

Consider: It's stuff you are giving away. Trust that it will land where it's supposed to land. Pending items mean the project has not been fully completed. You are blessed, let go and share now.

Problem: Failure to make decisions

For every indecision, guilt and stress for not having taken care of things pop up every time you come across the item. Then you feel bad, rebel and further procrastinate.

Consider: What is holding you back from deciding? Indecision equals clutter. Decide, decide, decide! Make up your mind already and get it done with! Eject it from your brain.

Problem: Failure to act on decisions

Decision without action is useless.

Consider: As someone I know said, "Life is simple. There's just stuff to do. We're the ones who put so much drama into it." Following through is key.

Problem: "I don't have time."

Fact: Yes, you do. We all have the same 24 hours. It's not that you don't have the time. It's that you choose not to make time. There's a difference.

Consider: Say I choose not to make time instead of I don't have time. Own it and stop complaining. You'll make time, eventually. So drop the excuse.

Problem: Procrastination

If you have decided on something, it's best to act on it right away. It takes less effort to get things done and over with than to procrastinate.

Consider: When we procrastinate on doing something, we prolong the agony of having unfinished tasks.

Napoleon Hill said, "Successful people are decisive." Discipline yourself to decide, act and move forward. It seems easier said than done but, just like being on a diet, one needs to be disciplined and make adjustments. After the workout, you start to see results. Then you keep at it and soon you love yourself in your body. In this case, you'll love yourself in your space.

Organize your space, organize your life. www.rippleeffectorganizing.com

TRADITIONAL maroon washbasin and toilet complete with chrome holders and riser kits with fixed shower head.

Bathroom essentials

ACE HARDWARE HAS A wide range of innovative bathroom furniture and accessories that can transform your bathroom into a place where you can relax, indulge your senses, and connect with your body and mind.

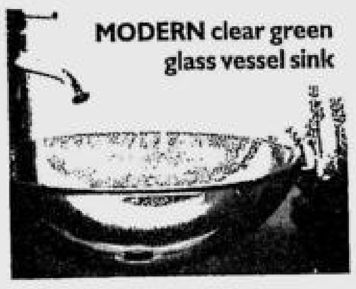
Here are some exciting new ways to luxe up your bathroom from Ace Hardware:

HYDRO-massage Whirlpool complete with riser kit, fixed shower head, fogless mirror and ceramic vessel sink

Bathtubs and showers. Your bathing area, whether it be a bathtub or shower, sets the tone for your total bathroom scheme. If you prefer to unwind by soaking in a bubble bath, you can consider a wall-to-wall alcove tub surrounded by three walls, or a corner tub installed with two sides exposed. If you prefer old-fashioned bathrooms, a freestanding clawfoot bathtub will fit in perfectly, while a more modern design would be a sunken tub. Better still, enjoy the spa experience at home with a relaxing whirlpool bathtub.

If you prefer a quick refreshing shower, you have a choice of modern shower heads like the dousing round downpour shower, lighter volume with a sprinkler, and a handheld shower to focus on key areas.

Bathroom sinks. If you want to make your bathroom suite less traditional, consider replacing your current basin with something more contemporary. Pedestal bathroom sinks can enlarge a room visually and create a luxurious setting, and in petite sizes can be the perfect solution to small areas where space is a premium.



MODERN clear green glass vessel sink

Other options include countertop sinks, also known as drop-ins; undercounter sinks, which create a clean, distinctive look; and vessel sinks which are versatile and stylish, and create a decorative focal point in any bath or powder room.

Toilets. Depending on your bathroom size, you can choose from round front toilets, which are compact to fit in small spaces, and elongated toilets, which have extra room in front for added comfort.

Mirrors. Apart from their function, mirrored surfaces instantly add a feeling of extra space to a room. Ace Hardware's selection ranges from streamlined and simple bathroom mirrors to fog-free mirrors in different shapes.

Usually positioned inside showers, above vanity areas, fog-free mirrors are made with shower-safe glass with anti-moist features, which allow uninterrupted mirror use even after a shower.

Bathroom accessories. Ultra-modern faucets, long brass side rails, chrome rings and integrated soap dishes create stylish accents in your bathroom.

Annual Ikebana show opens Mar. 8

THE ANNUAL EXHIBIT OF Ikebana International Manila Chapter 108, which also marks its 40th anniversary, will open March 8, 3 p.m., at 2/L, Grand Atrium, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong.

Theme of this year's show is "Looking Back and Moving On."

Guests of honor for the opening ceremonies are Noriko Yamazaki, wife of the Japanese ambassador to the Philippines; Colette Flipo, Ikebana teacher; and Lala Fojas, Shangri-La general manager. The exhibit is open to the public during mall hours until March 11. Entrance is free. As part of the exhibit, there will be demonstrations: Sogetsu, Flipo, 4-5:30 p.m., March 9; Ikenobo, Serapion Metilla, 3-5 p.m., March 10; and Ohara, Joyce Kato, 3-5 p.m., March 11.

IKEBANA International president Vangie Cheng with her arrangement of sexy pink heliconias. With her is Impy Pilapil who provided the sculptured containers.

He made it BIG

"If not for my education, it's hard to imagine how a then-simple boy like me could have survived throughout college, won awards from various national competitions, and managed to land a dream career in marketing with one of the biggest and most profitable companies in the country today. Thanks, APC, for the education and most importantly, for the priceless inspiration."

Jay graduated from APC in 2004 with a degree in Marketing and Advertising. Now he's a Senior Product Manager for one of the country's largest telecommunications companies.

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A HOME that allows the outside in also reveals the inside out.

A BUDDHIST altar on the second floor

The exquisite and the minimalist become an unlikely but effective visual mix

BO, the family's lovable Labrador, is the "king of the house."

Asian jewel

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

NOT A FEW PEOPLE STILL hold on to the mistaken notion that modern homes with Zen-like elements are bound to look a tad too cold and antiseptic in a tropical country like the Philippines.

ART piece made of discarded objects

Perish such thought. As friends of Norby and Wyn Wyn Ong have discovered for themselves, the liberal use of spare lines, huge open spaces, high walls and floor-to-ceiling glass doors isn't necessarily an invitation to boredom.

On the contrary, a visit to the Ong family's newly refurbished home in an exclusive village somewhere in Makati can be a rich and exhilarating experience for the eyes as well as for the soul.

It can also turn into a quick lesson on art and history, thanks to Wyn Wyn's choice collection of impressionist paintings mostly by Filipino artists.

She's also the proud custodian of a wide range of antique and contemporary folk art such as images of Catholic saints, Southeast Asian jars, intricate Vietnamese tableaux and Burmese lacquer baskets. The latter pieces hold a special place in her heart as Wyn Wyn hails from Burma.

The untold story behind each used item, more than its actual monetary value, is her primary motivation to collect and showcase such pieces.

In fact, one of her prized possessions is a small but colorful Catholic niche made from wooden milk carton with its brand still visible at the back. Wyn Wyn can only surmise that a poor but artistically gifted Filipino farmer from some remote province must have fashioned it.

"I love antiques for the simple reason that you're buying into somebody else's history," she says. "I'm always so in awe of the celebration and passion certain people put into their craft."

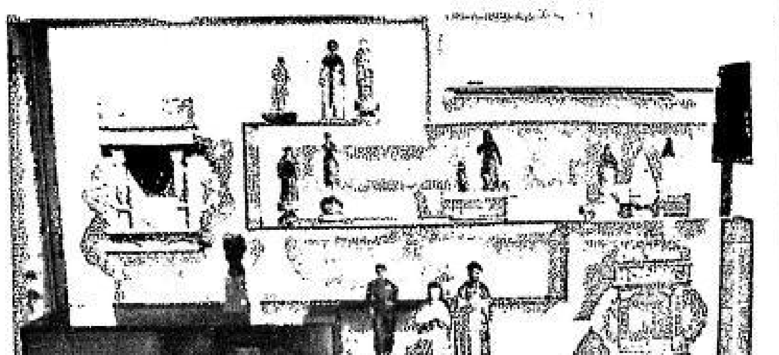
Collaboration

The house, a multi-level affair that features a pond sans fish and several pocket gardens, mirrors such thinking. After all, it's also a collaboration between two highly passionate and perhaps equally obstinate artists: Wyn Wyn, a jewelry designer, and her good friend Ed Calma, an architect.

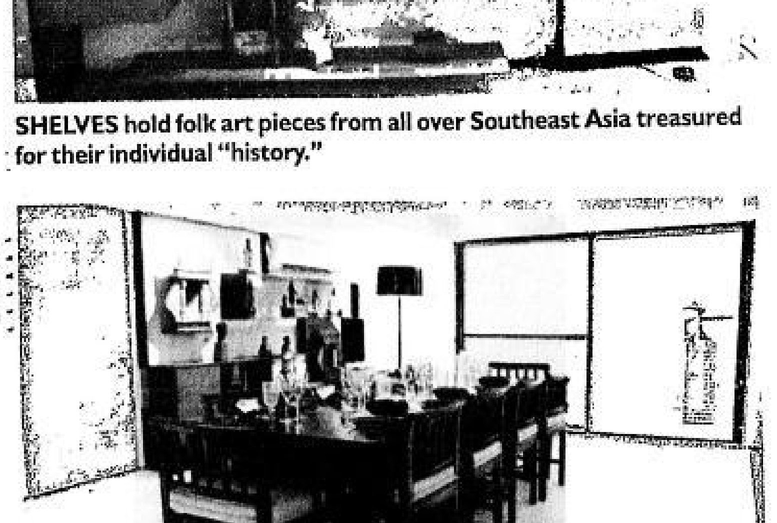
"From the moment Norby and I sat with Ed over dinner," says Wyn Wyn, "we agreed to disagree in some areas. We value our friendship, but we've always had a professional relationship."

Such "rules of engagement," in the end, worked in favor of the house, as Wyn Wyn

ASIAN/ E4

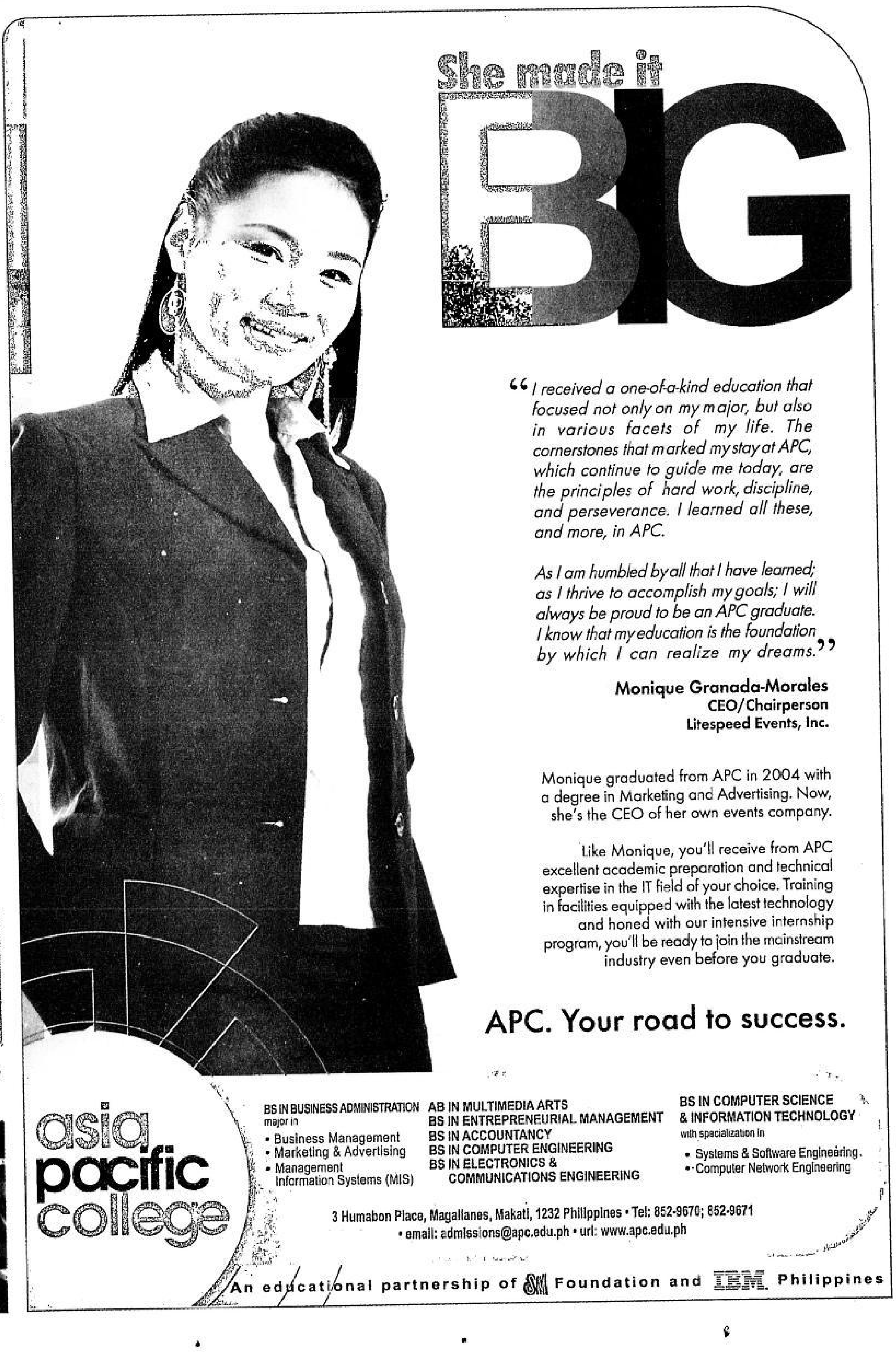


SHELVES hold folk art pieces from all over Southeast Asia treasured for their individual "history."



THE ONGS did away with a breakfast nook, as they did with a "dirty" kitchen, since they use the dining table at every meal.

TABLE setting using chinaware and flatware from all over the world. Also featured are modern candelabra made from glass blocks.



She made it BIG

"I received a one-of-a-kind education that focused not only on my major, but also in various facets of my life. The cornerstones that marked my stay at APC, which continue to guide me today, are the principles of hard work, discipline, and perseverance. I learned all these, and more, in APC.

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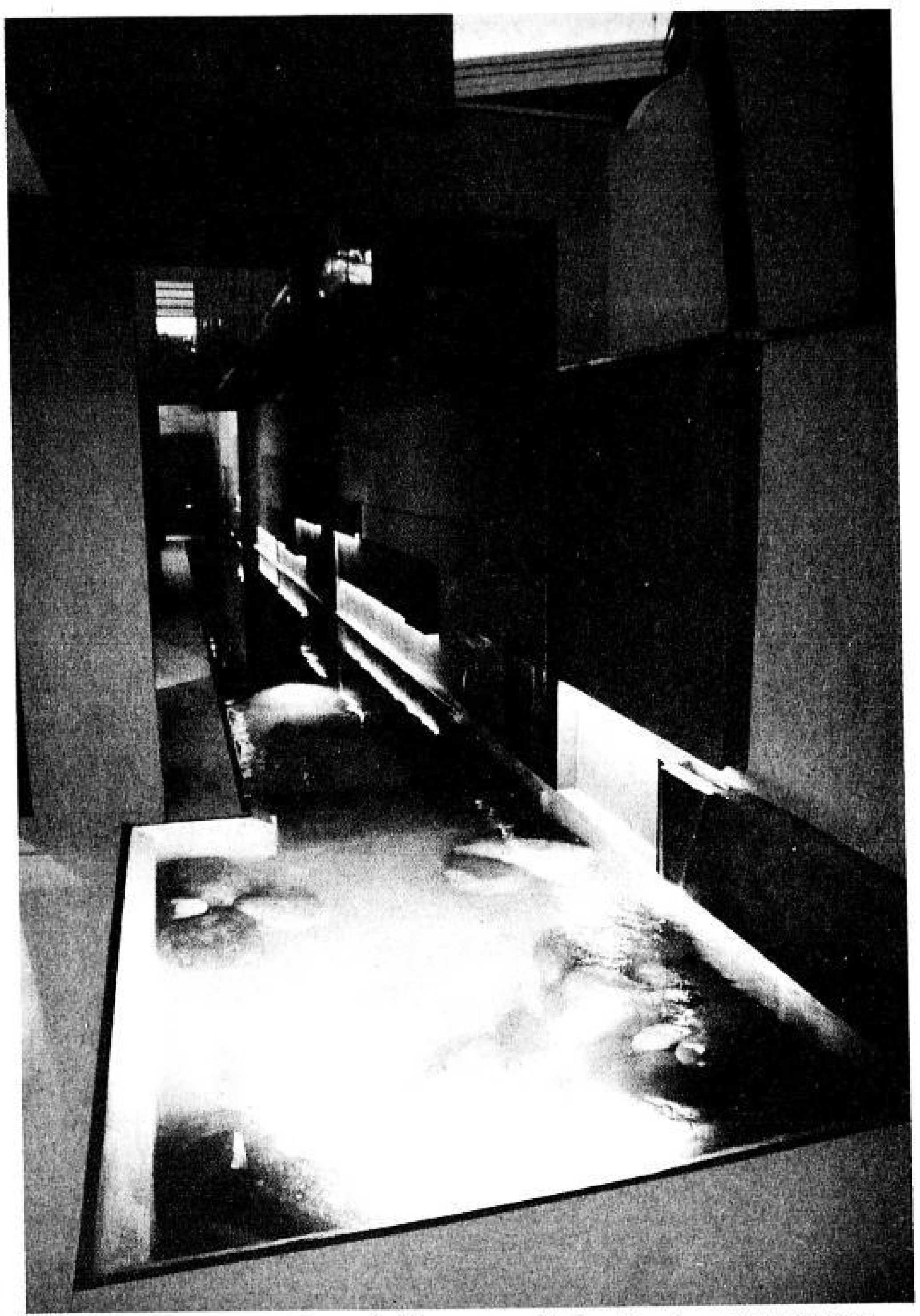
HUGE acrylic paintings by Maya Muñoz stand out in the living room, which also features a series of sitting areas covered in linen.



OUTDOOR pond offers the Ongs and their guests an ideal way to relax on warm evenings.

Asian jewel

From page E3

and Calma fine-tuned, fed off on and edited out each other's ideas.

In fact, the couple's friends are still wondering how Wyn Wyn was able to convince Calma, who's known to favor the use of white and beige, to add a dash or two of bold colors in his latest work.

This departure is evident in the huge aubergine (French for "eggplant") wall by the foyer and a series of red acrylic paintings by Maya Muñoz in the living room. Together with Wyn Wyn's other art pieces, they provide a series of exclamation points that impart certain corners with just the right touch of warmth.

But the biggest showcase by far of how the collaboration has turned certain established givens on their heads can be seen in the ground-floor powder room: A gleaming glass-tiled space that echoes Wyn Wyn's fascination with color and texture.

"Ed originally wanted to make it white," she says. "But as a jewelry designer, I insisted on something more colorful and textured."

Each room, in fact, is built around a concept, she adds. The powder room reminds her of a black-lipped Tahitian oyster that houses a huge white pearl.

The walls, a shimmering mosaic of Italian glass, were painstakingly pieced together one by one without grouting. It took a mason four months to finish the job. In the end, Calma was himself suprised since he liked how the unusual bathroom turned out.

The absence of grouting is also evident on huge ceramic tiles that make up the ground floor. Calma designed and measured them in such a way that all their vertical and horizontal lines intersect.

Unlike most other houses, no *retasos* (small, uneven pieces of tiles) are hidden somewhere in an obscure corner in the Ong abode.

Apart from their aesthetic quality, the tiles are easy to maintain (a wet mop will do nicely, thank you), which suits the Ongs and their hefty Labrador Bo just fine.

In fact, the presence of Bo, the acknowledged "king of the house," figured in Wyn Wyn's creative process as she went about designing the gardens.

"I did the gardens myself with four helpers," she says. "Since I was inspired by Ed's architecture, I didn't want to create clutter and discordance. At the same time, I wanted something easy to maintain."

In the end, she resorted to layering with rich Talisay soil at the bottom, gravel and sand in the middle and black river stones on top. A few hardy tropical plants (no cactus, please) jut out here and there.

"I didn't want to give my girls a hard time," she says. "The garden combines aesthetics and practicality, which makes a lot of sense."

Judging from the absence of Bo's huge paw prints on the pristine beige tiles (not to mention harried-looking household help), Wyn Wyn's attempt at outdoor landscaping has been a rousing success.

Texture and contrast

Calma was also able to achieve texture and contrast by incorporating stained wood such as tanguile and engineered coconut in the interior's overall setup.

These relatively dark materials, which are set off by a series of white ceilings and a sculptural staircase, can be seen on the steps leading to the bedrooms. The doors and floors of the family's private spaces were also done in lightly stained wood.

The parameters were clear from the start: the Ongs wanted a refurbished house built around their lifestyle of entertaining and cooking for friends on a regular basis. Rather than call a caterer, Wyn Wyn, with the help of her well-trained staff, prefers to do the cooking herself during parties.

Back in December, for instance, when the couple and their grown-up children Michael and Stephanie moved in, Wyn Wyn dared to host a cocktail party for 50 people. Up to the last minute, she wasn't sure if the plan was going to work. To her relief, it did.

"We were able to create nine conversation areas all over the house," she says. "People were all over the place. We catered to them and they were so comfortable."

Wyn Wyn attributes her home's party-friendly floor plan to her architect's ingenuity at fully utilizing space and volume.

Calma opened up a sunken area leading to the den and converted it into a dining area adjacent to a streamlined and fully equipped kitchen. A so-called "dirty" kitchen has no place in this house.

A series of steps leading to the sunken area acts like an artery connecting the dining room with the huge living room.

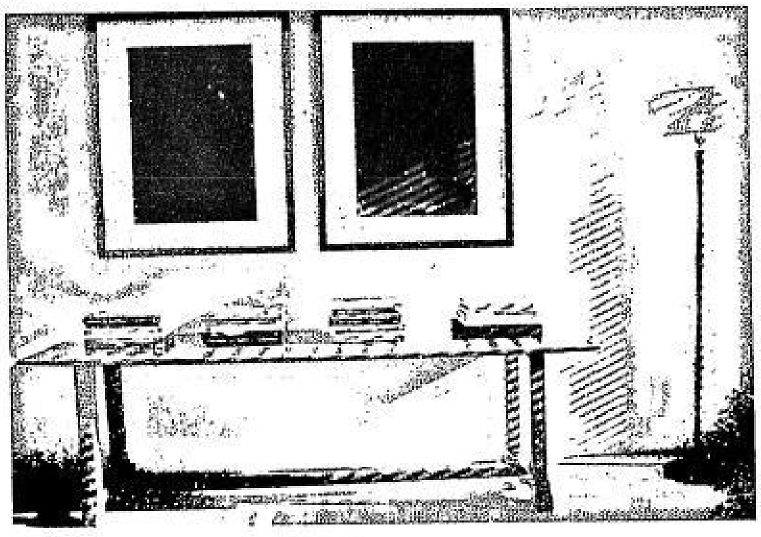
He then turned the space, once reserved for the old dining area, into a second sitting area beside the rear garden. Apart from introducing a few decorative treatments on existing windows, he also went for bigger sliding glass doors to allow the outside in.

Wyn Wyn, for her part, eschewed sleek furniture pieces made of leather and steel (the cold, mannish look so typical of minimalist homes) in favor of comfy pieces wrapped in earth-toned linen. The only exceptions are a series of embossed leather chairs that occupy the center of the living room.

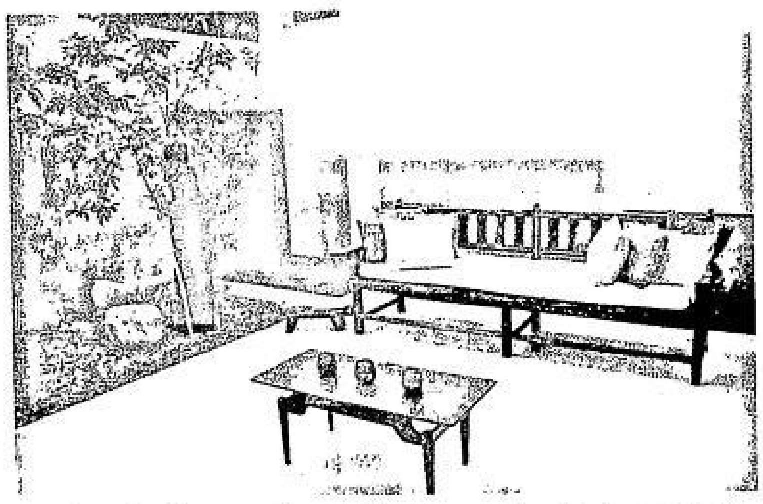
Bold area rugs from the Middle East and South Asia not only set off one sitting area from the other, but also imparts a blush of color and warmth in the living room as well as the master bedroom.

"This house is really perfect for the tropics," Wyn Wyn swears. "It's very easy to clean, has constant ventilation and uses a great deal of indigenous materials. It's a celebration of the Asianess in us."

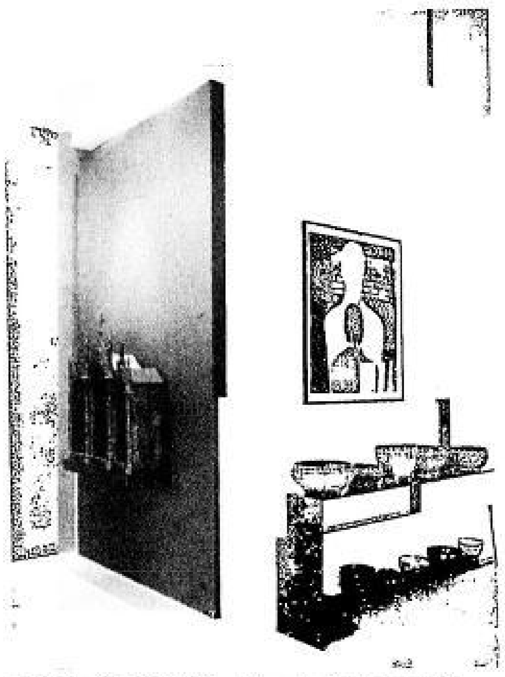
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



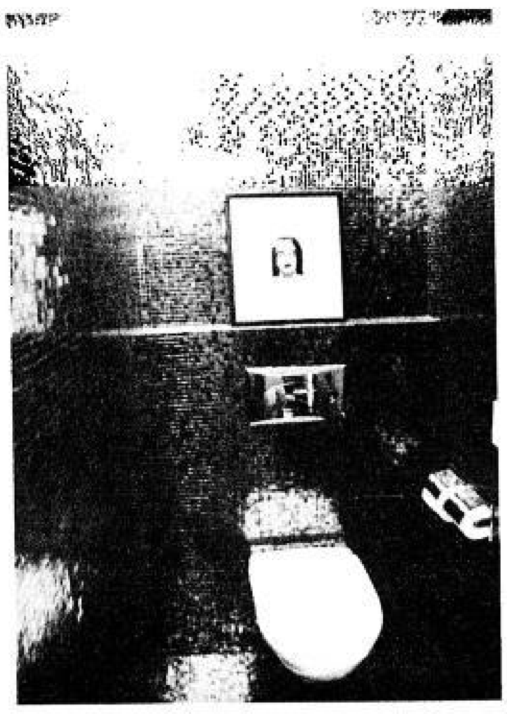
A HOME with lots of sunshine



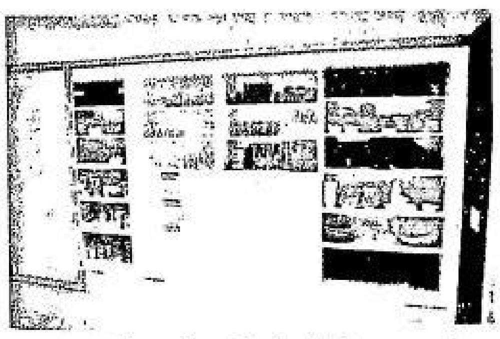
REAR garden features a "layered" area consisting of soil, gravel and black river rocks.



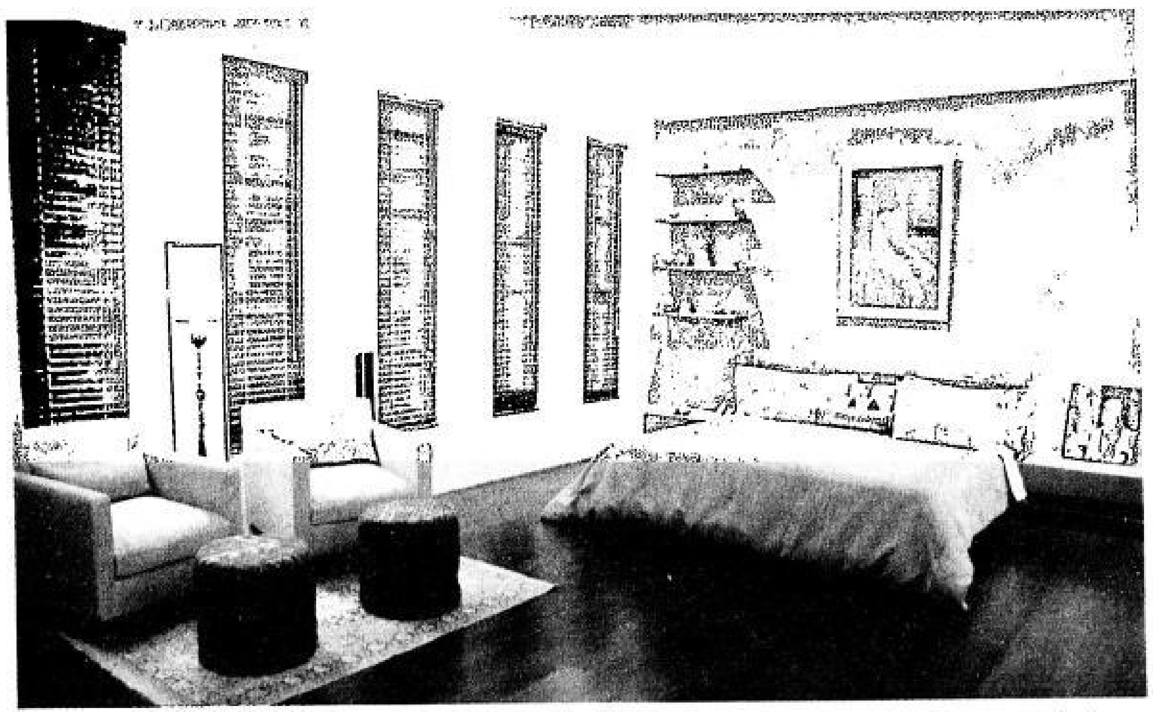
BOLD-COLORED wall and art pieces add warmth to the receiving area.



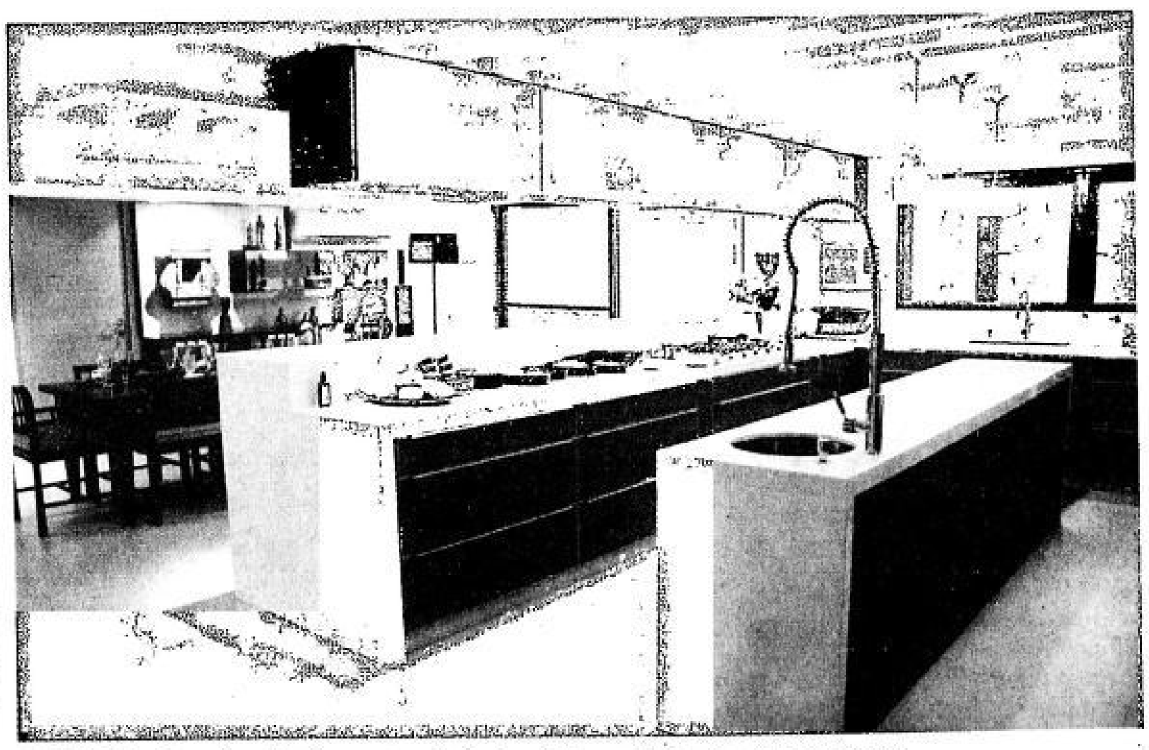
THE shimmering powder room: Wyn Wyn's idea of a black-lipped Tahitian oyster with a huge pearl



SLIDING glass doors in the kitchen reveal a series of custom-built cabinets that feature Wyn Wyn's extensive collection of tableware.



SKYLIGHT floods the master bedroom during the day. The wooden Venetian blinds were custom-built, as were the floors made of engineered coconut.



MODERN and spacious kitchen caters to the family's need to host parties regularly.

Jazz pianist Noriega performs at the CCP

NOTED US-BASED FILIPINO jazz pianist Victor Noriega will be featured in a special concert, "Alay," at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Little Theater today, 3 p.m.

Hailed as a young Dave Brubeck, Noriega, son of Filipino immigrants, has been honored with prestigious Golden Ear Awards given by Earshot Jazz as Emerging Artist of the Year (2005), Northwest Instrumentalist of the Year (2006) and Northwest Recording of the Year (2006) for his "Alay" album.

An up-and-coming original voice in jazz piano, Noriega has captivated audiences worldwide with his authentic touch on the piano, and an inventive approach to improvisation. At the 2004 Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music in Alberta, Canada, Noriega worked with top international musicians Dave Douglas, Bill Frisell, James Genus, Clarence Penn, Brad Turner, Mike Murley, Jason Moran, Han Bennik and Mark Feldman.

He has also recorded and performed in concert and club settings with noted artists George Lewis and Mark Turner. His debut CD, "Stone's Throw," recorded in 2004 with The Victor Noriega Trio, earned favorable reviews from critics.

Noriega obtained his Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies in 2000 from the University of Washington on a four-year scholarship.

He will perform original compositions and contemporary arrangements of Filipino tunes such as "Dahil Sa Iyo," "Kuya," "Bahay-Kubo," "Pandangguhan," "Maalaala Mo Kaya," "Saan Ka Man Naroroon," "Bayan Ko" and "Harana."

Guest artists are Alvin Cornista (saxophone), Roger Herrera (bass) and Jay Cummings (drums). Noriega is currently performing at the Philippine International Jazz and Arts Festival 2007.

"Alay" was recorded through a full residency grant by the 2005 Artist Support Program of the Jack Straw Foundation, produced by T&D (Time and Direction) Records in 2006. It is a benefit concert for outstanding music students at the University of the Philippines (through the Scholarship Program of the Sigma Alpha Sorority Alumnae Association) and the University of Santo Tomas.

Tickets are available at the CCP Box Office at P500 each. Call Vance Noriega, 750-1010.

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AYALA Land External Affairs officer Sonny Igrubay, Dole representative Nelson Hosenilla, TriNoma deputy GM Melo Jalandoni, Mayor Sonny Belmonte, QC-Peso head Ignacio Santos-Diaz and TriNoma GM Javi Hernandez

New QC mall holds job fair

TRINOMA, AYALA MALLS' NEW MULTILEVEL shopping center in Quezon City, held the three-day job fair "Careers at TriNoma." Over 30 merchants participated, offering more than 5,000 jobs.

Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte, with TriNoma general manager Javi Hernandez and deputy GM Melo Jalandoni, formally opened the fair.

Several government agencies set up satellite offices to service pre-employment needs of applicants like Social Security System/PhilHealth Numbers, National Bureau of Investigation clearance, police clearance and Community Tax Certificate.

TriNoma is scheduled to open second quarter of the year, with Landmark as its major anchor. It offers over 550 retail choices. A one-hectare park, complemented by special water features, sits atop the building.

TriNoma will have several zones—kids, teen, sports, home, wellness and information technology. It will also feature state-of-the-art digital cinemas, generous parking space, and a direct connection to the North Avenue station of the MRT.

HOPEFUL job seekers go through the list of TriNoma job openings.

OVER 3,000 job hunters joined "Careers at TriNoma."

Gift of change begins early

OVER 200 POOR FAMILIES, MORE than twice the initial number of residents, now live in the Jaime Cardinal Sin Village in Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila.

The village, supported through donations raised by the Robinsons Malls' The Gift of Change, opened in 2003.

It is administered by the Serviam Foundation, with the assistance of the parish priest of Punta, Fr. Mark C. Munda.

To help provide the needs of the community, Robinsons Malls' The Gift of Change sought the support of companies like Amspec, Boysen, Greencross, Gem Stationery, Corona Supplies, GSK and Batobalani Foundation who ably assisted to complete the requirements of the community.

Additional funds and dry goods were also raised through coin banks and donation boxes in Robinsons Malls in Metro Manila.

The village now has two three-story buildings, an elementary school, a church and cooperative operated by the residents themselves.

Father Munda says prospective residents are screened and those who pass get living quarters consisting of a *sala*/dining room, toilet and a bedroom. The family is responsible for completing their home and should pay water, electrical and other bills.

This year The Gift of Change will have the theme "A Gift of Love, The Gift of Change."

Robinsons Land Corporation (RLC) corporate PR manager Roseann Coscolluela-Villegas said the project was being launched five months earlier because so much still had to be done.

Donations raised this year will go to the completion of the school library, among others.

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HOST Gerry Contreras, J. Moreno Foundation founding chair Meldy Cojuangco and honoree Pitoy Moreno with UP College of Fine Arts scholars

COJUANGCO awarding a UP College of Medicine scholar with Elena Fernando (left) and Moreno assisting

MARNI Cojuangco-Yulo (center) with the UP College of Agriculture scholars

MORENO with three of seven scholars from the UP College of Medicine

MERCY Tuazon, Carol Garcia, Ching Montinola and Menchu Concepcion

JUN and Courtney Camcam with Shana Watts and Dr. Hayden Kho Jr.

Do-good, feel-good birthday for Pitoy Moreno

EVERY YEAR JOSÉ "PITOY" Moreno celebrates his birthday surrounded by friends led by socialite philanthropist Imelda Cojuangco.

The feel-good atmosphere at Pitoy's party comes not only from the music and the food (Pitoy's famous *buko* salad and *leche flan* are to die for) but is for the large part a result of the do-good excuse for the get-together.

Moreno's birthday coincides every year with the granting of the J. Moreno Foundation scholarships to deserving medical and fine arts students at Moreno's alma mater, the University of the Philippines.

The scholarship grants—seven for medical students and five for fine arts majors—are actually awarded twice a year. The other occasion is the birthday of Cojuangco, founding chair of the J. Moreno Foundation.

This year at Moreno's birthday bash held in the posh penthouse of architect Gerry Contreras, Cojuangco and the celebrator awarded scholarships to medical students Apple Balderan, Kathryn Ty, Anthony Cu, Zenaida Amenolla, Paul Adrian Pinlac, Paulo Medina and Jazel Manarang. The fine arts scholars are Eduardo Barua, Marjorie Rodriguez, Rodrigo Acusar, Marian Bunao and Noel Grantoza.

Moreno has added grants for agriculture students to encourage more high-school graduates to take up Agriculture in college. "I am disheartened that the number of enrollees in the colleges of agriculture is reportedly going down," said Moreno. "No wonder we're having to import rice and fruits from Thailand. I wish more young people would see that there is money in agriculture. Look at Danding Cojuangco."

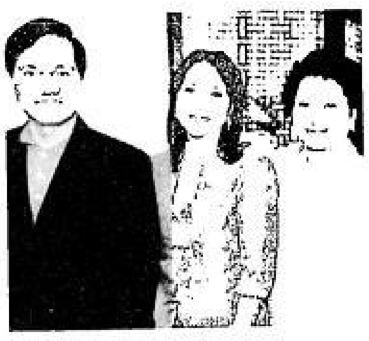
As a result of his concern, the J. Moreno Foundation now awards scholarships to five students from the UP College of Agriculture in Los Baños. This semester's recipients are Sherwin Hermosa, Sonny Franny, Leo Fuentes, Rose Gernasa and Ana Asejo.

"We don't choose the brightest," said Moreno, who is also known as Asia's Fashion Czar. "We already know these students are smart because they got into UP. So we choose those who cannot afford to keep on going to school without financial help."

JOHNNY Valdes

ROSITA Lesaca

WILLIAM How, Diana How and Sonia Olivares



NOEL Gonzales, Fortune Ledesma and Mabel Abaño

NENA Villanueva, Chel Katigbak, Alice Sandejos; (seated) Elena Fernando, Mely Moreno

SANDIE Poblador and CCP president Nes Jardin

NENE Quimson and Yaying Dragon

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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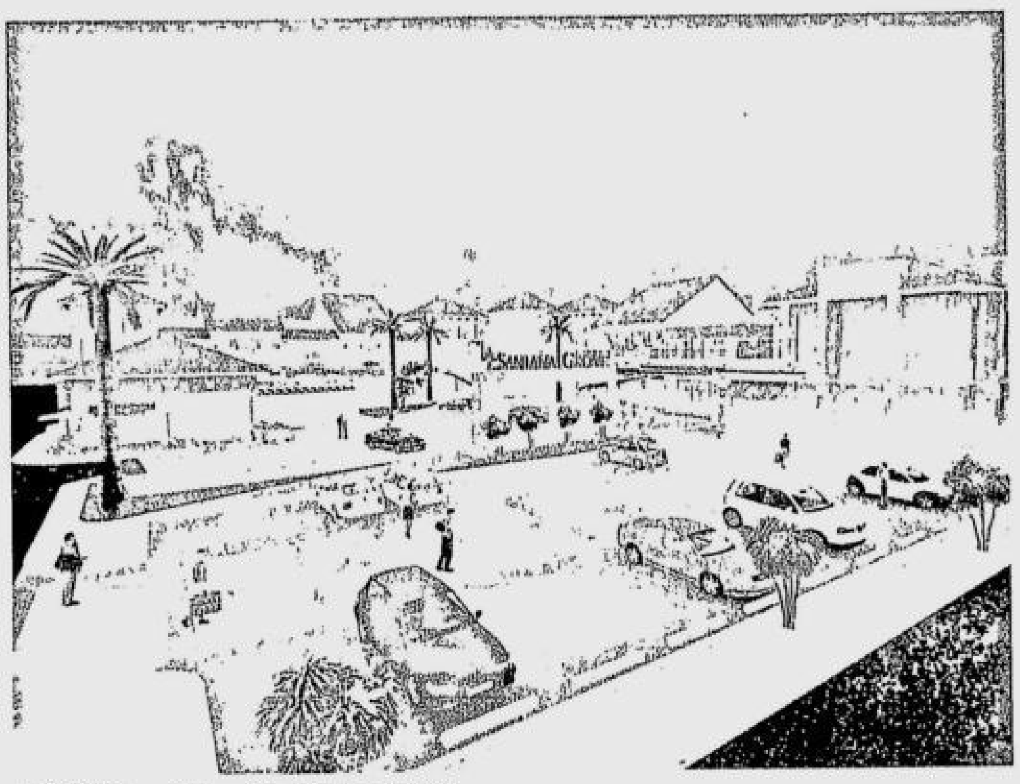


ARTIST'S rendition of the Santana Grove

Supercenter in the south

Shopwise opens its seventh outlet in Santana Grove, Sucat's new lifestyle destination

By Alex Y. Vergara

DENIZENS OF MUNTINLUPA, Las Piñas and Parañaque will soon enjoy a wider if not better range of malling options with the opening of Santana Grove in May.

Inspired by upscale strip malls in Los Angeles (think The Promenade and The Grove), Santana Grove is situated in a six-hectare property on Dr. A. Santos Avenue (Sucat Road).

Its developers, led by the Tanseco family, envision it as a holistic lifestyle center that will house a diverse mix of shops, cafés, restaurants and services. It will even boast of a garden center complete with all kinds of ornamental plants for the home and office.

"We want to provide people an oasis in the middle of an urban area along Sucat," says Celine Tanseco-Abella, VP of Suparana Holdings Inc., developers of Santana Grove.

Thus, apart from offering shoppers plenty of shopping options, Santana Grove will make the most out of its open spaces to give its customers more reasons to linger and soak up the fresh air and sunshine.

"Since the place is designed for families," says Sylvia Tanseco-Ramos, treasurer of Suparana Holdings Inc., "we want people to stay a while longer and unwind after doing their shopping and groceries."

In keeping with its vision as an oasis of life (and livelihood), Santana Grove will also play host to a "world-class" call center. In fact, people behind the development took its cue from Eastwood City in Libis (the first and perhaps the biggest call center hub in the Philippines) by hiring the same design company.

Anchor store

But to mall-obsessed Filipinos who have grown accustomed to instant gratification, two months is a long time to wait.

Well, they need not wait a minute longer since Shopwise Supercenter, Santana Grove's anchor store as well as its biggest tenant, will open ahead of everybody else today. Once the mall is fully operational, Shopwise will be connected to the rest of the establishment via a concrete bridge way.

This newest outlet, the seventh in the company's growing chain of hypermarts, will carry everything a loyal patron has come to expect from Shopwise.

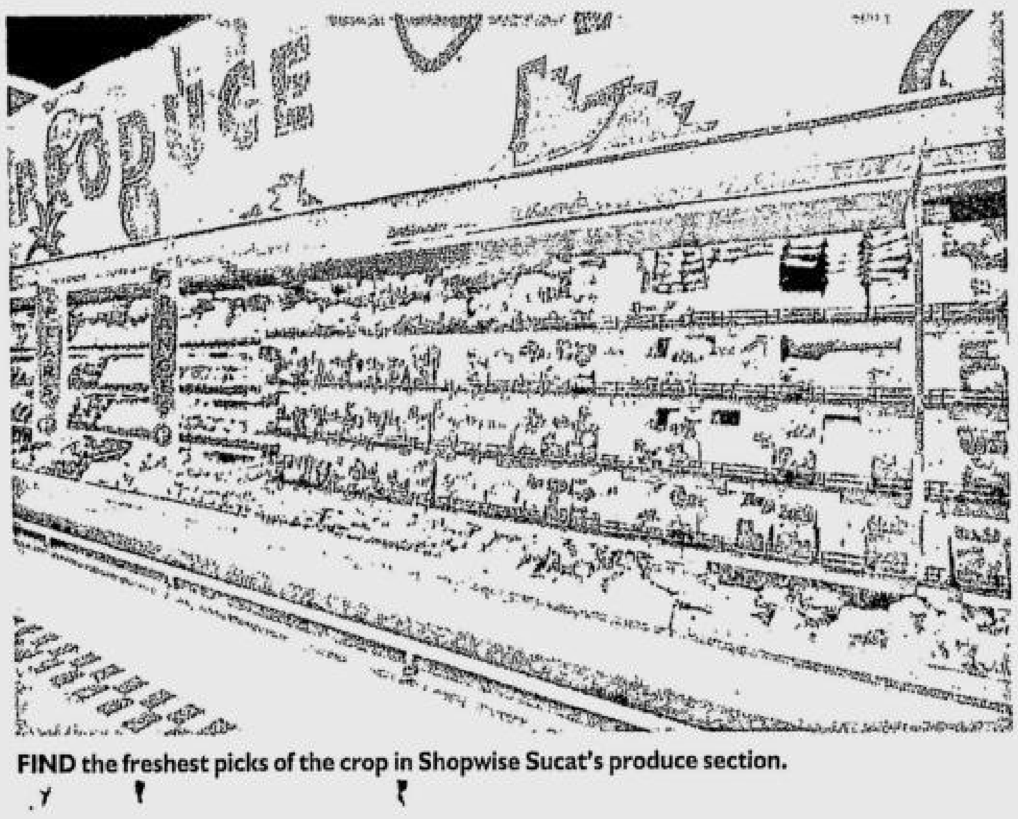
CRICKETTE Tantoco

On top of a complete range of grocery items, this latest addition to the Shopwise family promises to offer the freshest and choicest meat, fish and produce, giving consumers the best value for their money.

With a total area of 15,000 sq m (6,000 sq m of which is devoted to the store), this Shopwise may not be the biggest (the Cubao branch still holds the record), but it's by far the most stylish, with a contemporary red-and-blue façade that has an uncanny resemblance to the old Rustan's Makati.

And to make it truly a one-stop shopping and dining experience, Shopwise has allotted space for such tenants as National Bookstore, Mercury Drug, Gerry's Grill, Kitaro,

SUPERCENTER/ F2



FIND the freshest picks of the crop in Shopwise Sucat's produce section.

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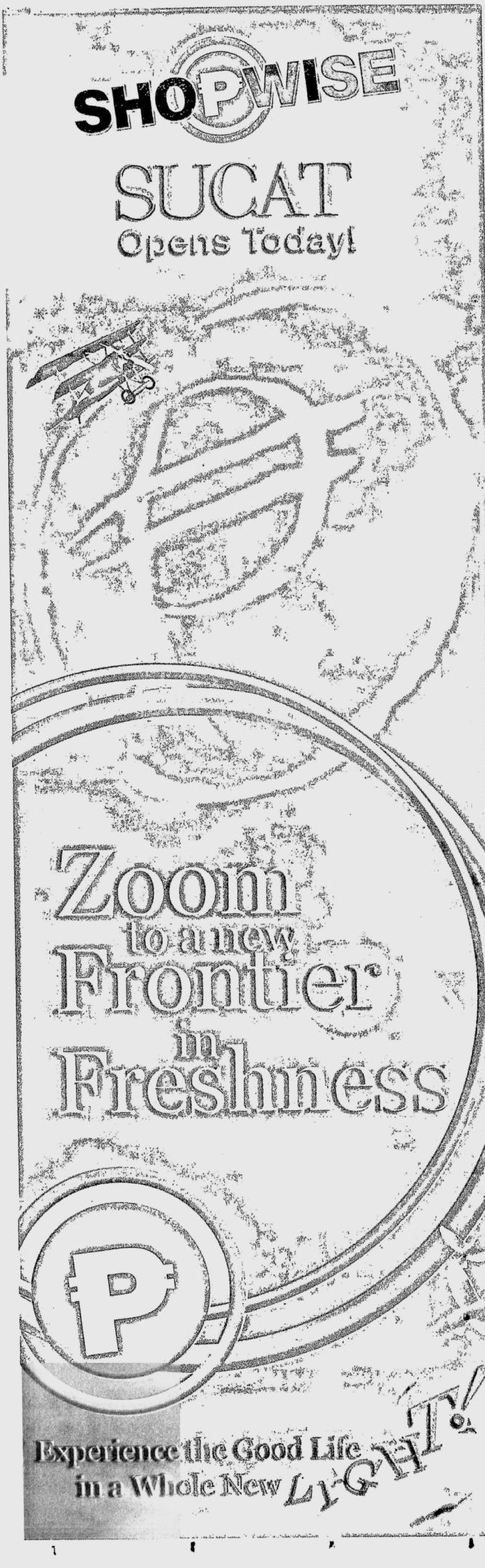
Opens Today!
Get High on Shopping Variety!
Experience the Good Life in a Whole New LIGHT!


SHOPWISE
SUCAT
Opens Today!
Zoom
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A LIFESTYLE hub with Shopwise as the anchor store

Supercenter in t

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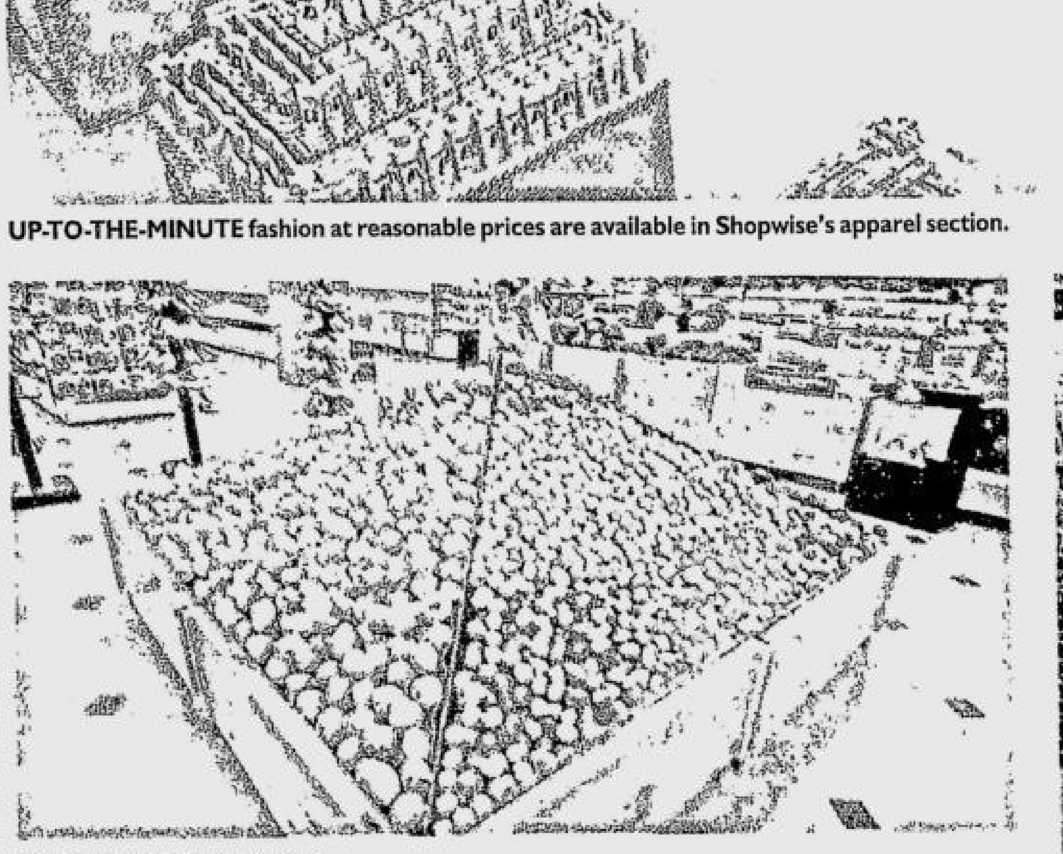
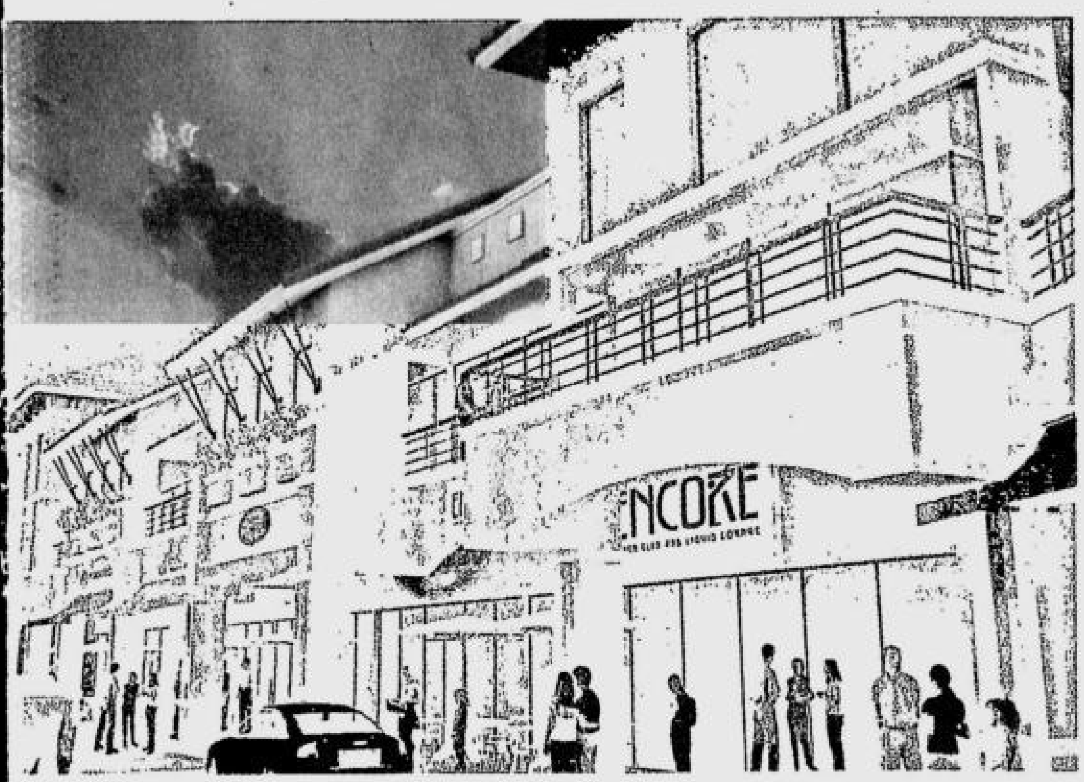
UP-TO-THE-MINUTE fashion at reasonable prices are available in Shopwise's apparel section.

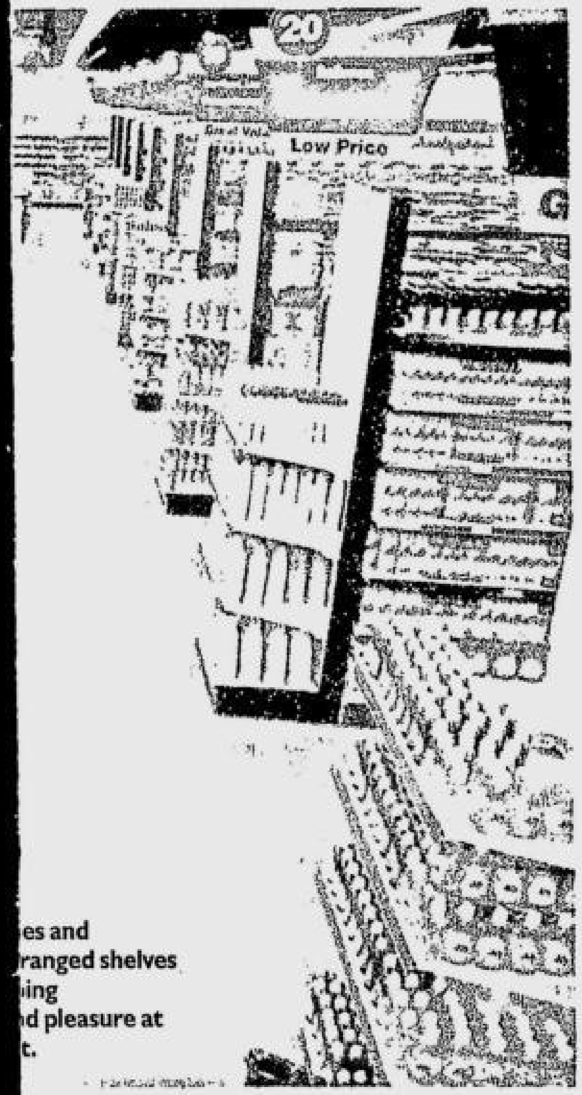

FRESH fruits and vegetables



UTURE stores to cater to individual lifestyles

the south

From page F1



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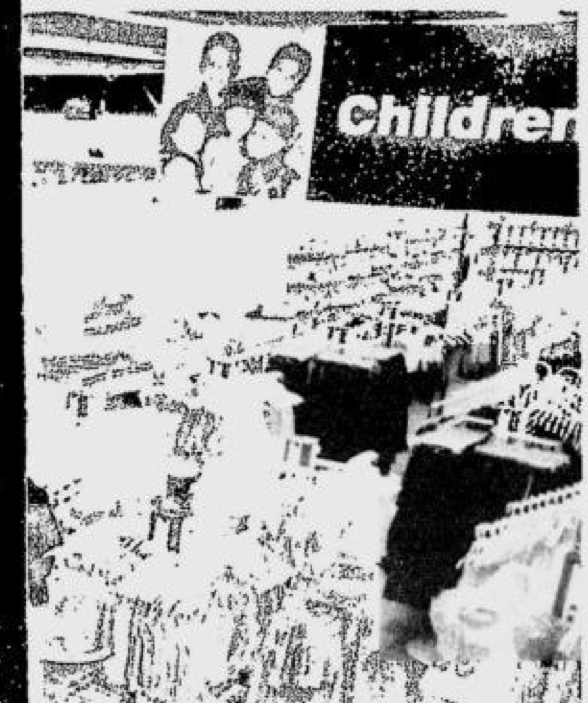


Coffee Experience and Go Nuts Doughnuts.

"Such a diverse mix is simply in keeping with the economic model of what a hypermart or supercenter is supposed to be," says Crickette Tantoco, VP for merchandising and marketing of Shopwise.

In the end, customers are bound to save money as well as time from such a model since they don't have to go far to shop for most of the stuff they would need.

In turn, people behind Shopwise promise to provide them not only with a better shopping experience, but also with a "more cost-efficient" store.

Tantoco and associates are still coming up with new ways to serve customers better. Shopwise Sucat, she affirms, is an improved version of their previous efforts.

"Most of the improvements will be obvious to the customer," says Tantoco. "Apart from what is evident on the floor, we've also introduced a number of improvements at the back of the house."

Such behind-the-scene enhancements include a better loading dock and a number of energy-saving schemes and devices designed to bring down costs. Of course, says Tantoco, savings generated from such efforts will eventually be passed on to consumers in the form of lower prices.

Apt theme

Indeed, Shopwise has come a long way from the days when it pioneered as one of the country's first hypermarts in the late 1990s with its very first store in Alabang. In keeping with such a trajectory, it has adopted an apt theme for its store opening today: "Shopwise takes flight."

Such a theme can be viewed both in the literal and figurative sense. After all, its newest outlet is a mere 10-15 minutes away from three of the country's major airports.

In fact, program organizers led by Frances Yu, AVP for marketing of Shopwise, wanted to feature a number of skydivers as part of opening-day festivities. The idea had to be nixed, as Santana Grove sits on a no-fly zone.

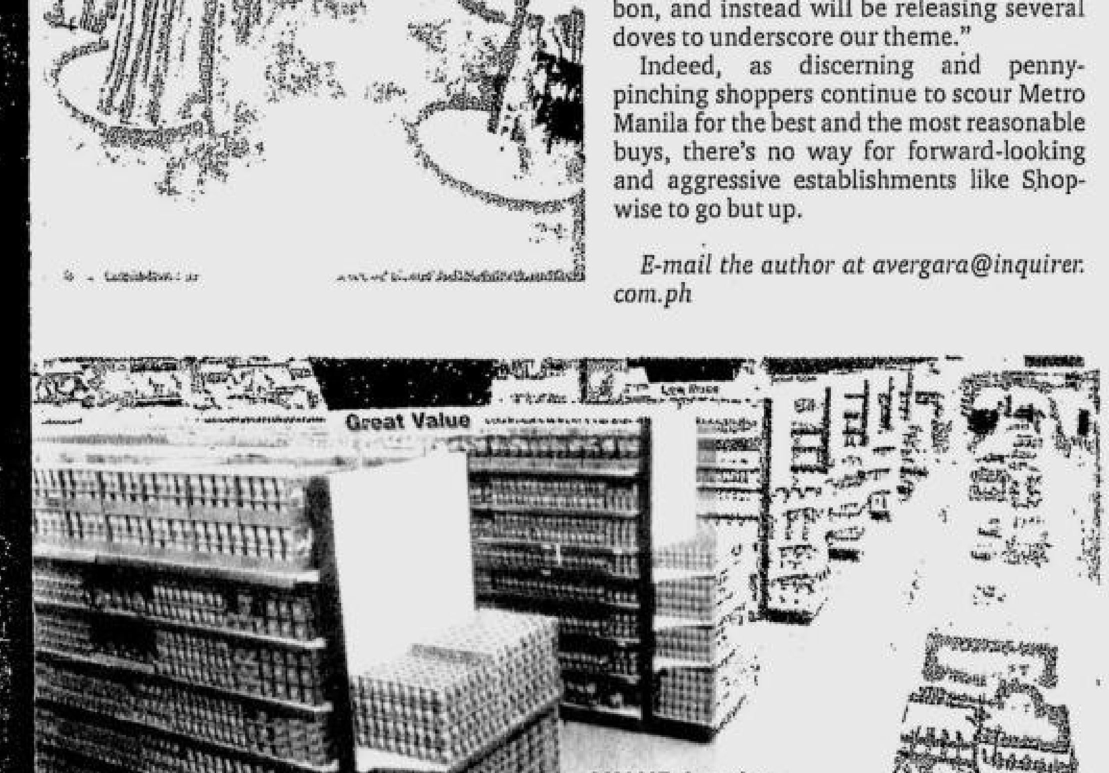
The whole-day affair starts at 9 a.m. with a motorcade along Sucat Road led by an "airplane on wheels," which will feature dancers and skaters. Gravity-defying BMX bikers and skateboarders will join them as the day progresses.

In keeping with the celebration's theme, Shopwise has also lined up kite-flying as well as remote-control plane exhibitions. Capping off the event are performances by members of the Pinoy Dream Academy and Bamboo.

"One of they day's highlights will be a nontraditional ribbon-cutting," says Yu. "We'll be doing away with the usual ribbon, and instead will be releasing several doves to underscore our theme."

Indeed, as discerning and penny-pinching shoppers continue to scour Metro Manila for the best and the most reasonable buys, there's no way for forward-looking and aggressive establishments like Shopwise to go but up.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



VALUE shopping, longer store hours and first-class customer service distinguish Shopwise Sucat.

SHOPWISE
SUCAT
Opens Today!
Let your value shopping Dreams take Flight!
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Experience the Good Life
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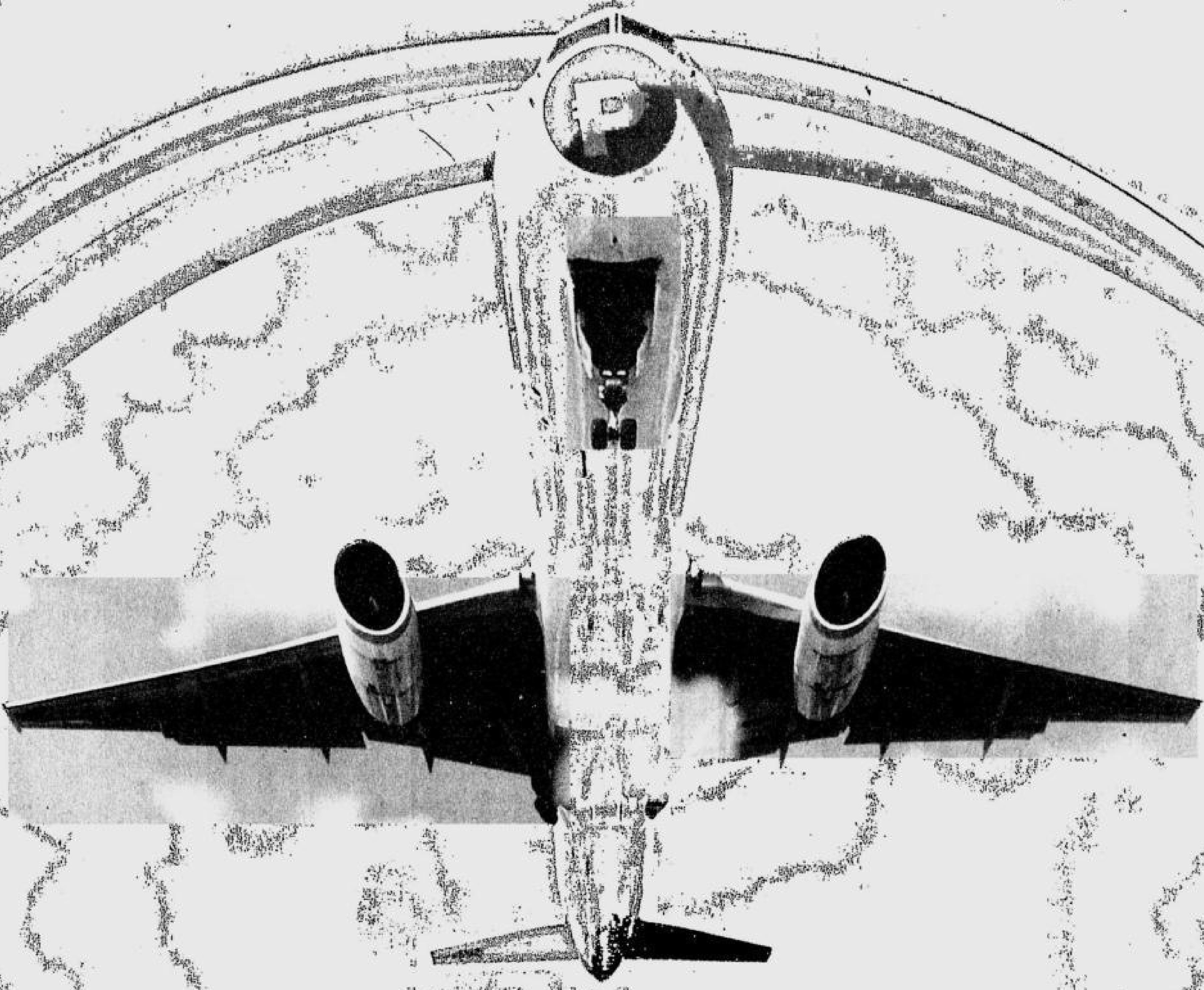
SHOPWISE

SUCAT HAS ARRIVED!

March 4 | 2007

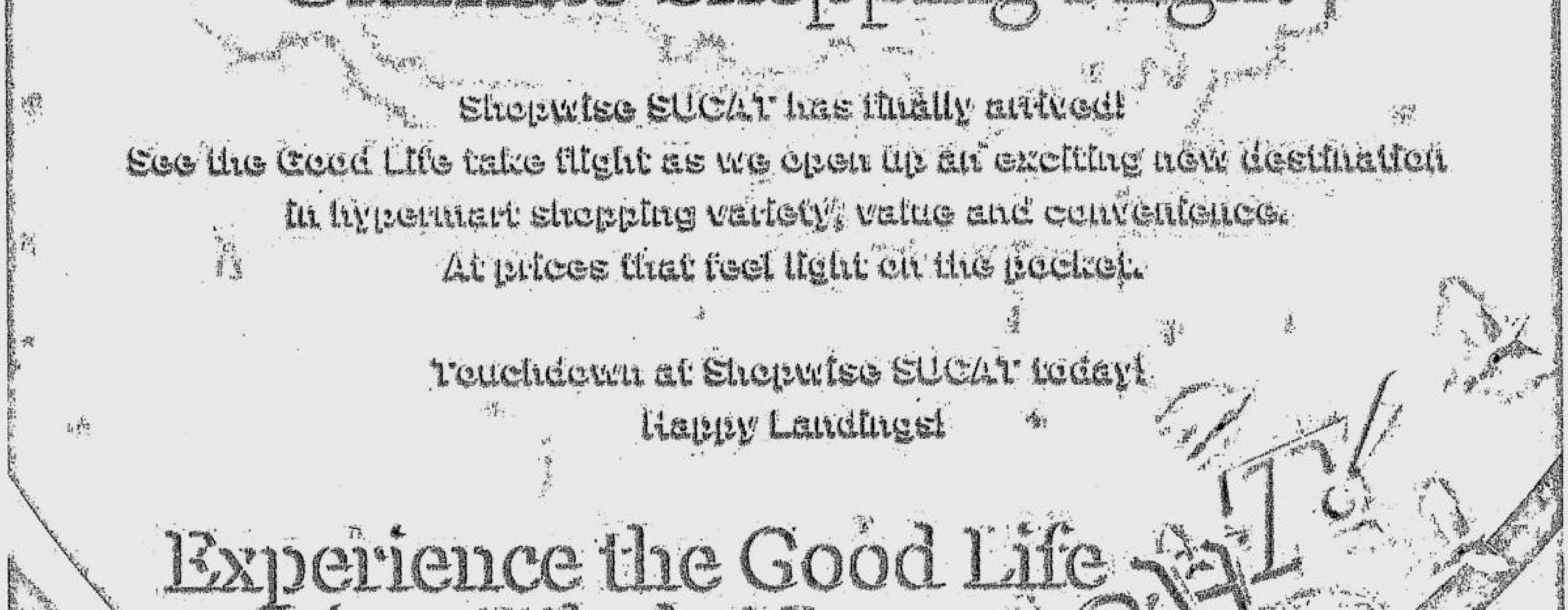


Get Ready for the Ultimate Shopping High!

Shopwise SUCAT has finally arrived!
See the Good Life take flight as we open up an exciting new destination
in hypermart shopping variety, value and convenience.
At prices that feel light on the pocket.

Touchdown at Shopwise SUCAT today!
Happy Landings!

Experience the Good Life in a Whole New LEVEL!



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ENTERTAINMENT

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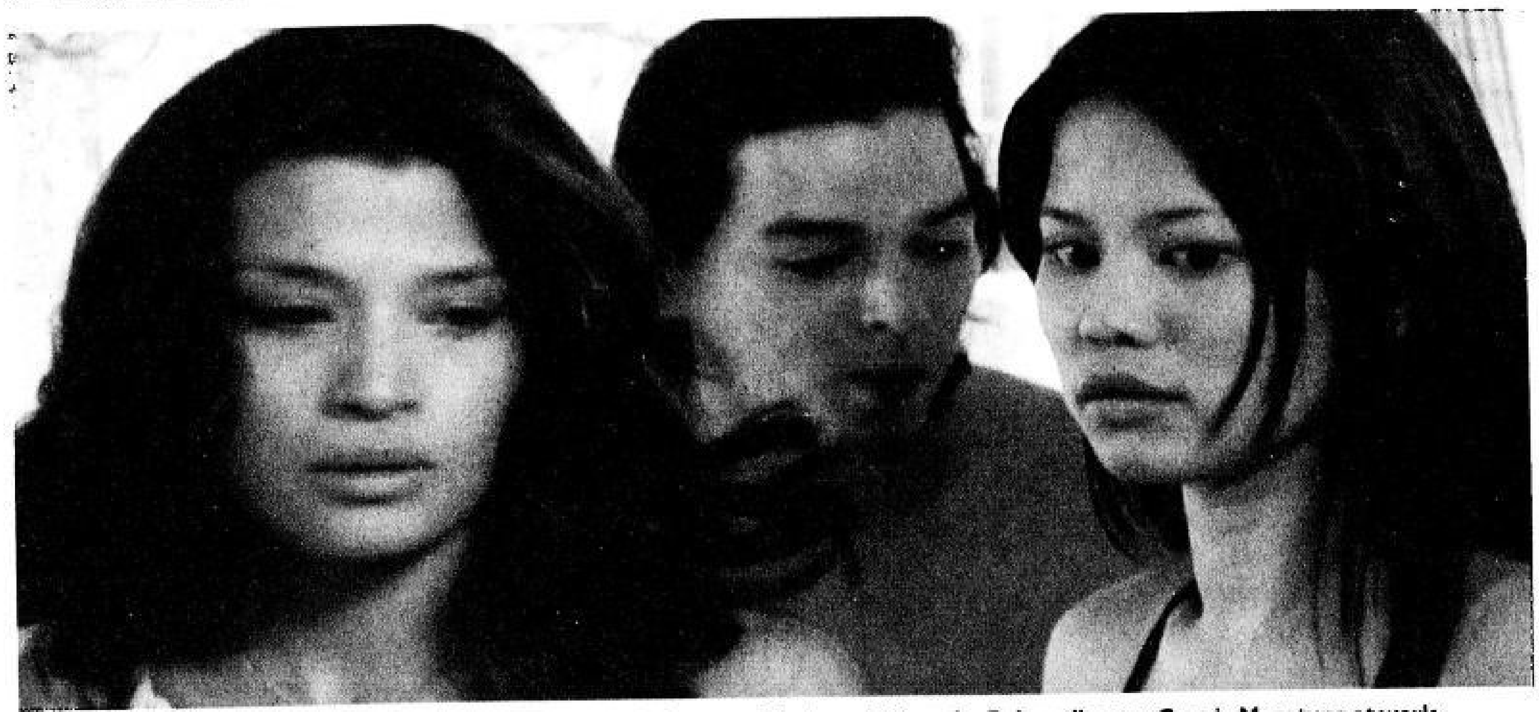
INSIDE

Readers have a few things to say about Kris & James ... & Hope /H2



"ROME and Juliet" lead cast (from L) Mylene Dizon, Miko Palanca and Andrea del Rosario. Below, director Connie Macatuno at work.

Connie & her camera

Ex-network producer debuts on big screen with a 'different' women's movie

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

DEBUTING DIRECtor Connie S. A. Macatuno truly rose from the ranks, having worked as floor director on "Teysi ng Tahanan" and executive producer on "Cristy Perminute"—both ABS-CBN shows.

Connie further honed her directing skills on the Kapamilya network's "Star Drama Presents" and "Wansapanataym."

Although she is not a Film major, she says she started developing her passion for production work in college, while helping stage the annual UP Samaskom extravaganza 'Live A.I.D.S.'"

For her film debut, she picked "Rome and Juliet," an unlikely romance between hitherto heterosexual women (a bride-to-be and a wedding planner—played by Andrea del Rosario and Mylene Dizon, respectively). Shot with a digital camera, "Rome" was an entry in the latest Cinema One film festival.

Connie, who says she's hetero, insists she was inspired by gay friends' relationships.

As for the "lesbian" film tag, she's cool with it. To loosely quote one of her friends: "Nowadays, everyone is gay."

"Rome," the Valentine presentation of IndieSine in Robinsons Galleria, is currently making the rounds of Robinsons malls nationwide, including Iloilo and Bacolod.

It also has a return engagement at IndieSine beginning March 7, as part of the Women's Month celebration.

TAKE FIVE

What was the biggest challenge of shooting "Rome"?

It was getting skeptics to believe that it would work, [since] it's a nontraditional concept with a mainstream approach. Another challenge was time constraints. I got the green light less than five weeks before premiere night.

It was a test of patience—problems ranged from actors' schedules to not having enough money. All in all, it was a learning process, a humbling but inspiring experience. The cast and crew believed in and were committed to the project.

How do you elicit the best from your actors?

I had a talented and passionate cast. Each one had his or her own [technique]. I just adapted to what worked for them. (Mylene won Best Actress in the Cinema One digital film fest for this movie.)

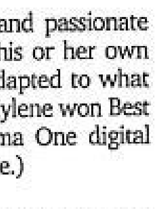
What was the audience feedback?

It was exhilarating to hear the people laughing in the movie house. I got mixed reviews ... you can't please everybody. I heard it was IndieSine's first SRO screening. Friends said people were sitting on or standing in the aisles. I guess they liked it.

CONNIE/ G4

In 'Terabithia,' reality & fantasy blend well

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

WE'VE JUST HAD A FUN TIME watching "Bridge to Terabithia" and hope that it's your cinematic cup of tea as well. It's a unique fantasy film because its fantasticating element is made to bloom within the context of a very real situation.

Josh Hutcherson plays a lonely boy who loves to sketch but has a hard time making friends and feels unloved by his folks. At school, he meets peppy **Annasophia Robb**, a new girl in town, who's much more sociable, but also lacks friends.

After an awkward start, the two odd-kids-out get along famously, and enter into their own private, beautiful world of wonder, fantasy and imagination—their fictive kingdom of Terabithia.

In this world, they learn how to work together and fight against the evil force that are holding the otherwise beautiful kingdom in thrall. As they wage their fictive battles (which are all too real for them), they also work out some of their growing-up problems.

The kids remain kids in this production, but it's made clear that, if their story were allowed to develop, they would eventually fall in love. Alas, this doesn't happen, and the shocking plot twist knocks the wind out of the sails of the characters involved—and the film's viewers as well.

The shift in plot and tone may be painful, but it's also most instructive, because it shows how young people deal with loss, and what happens to love after it "dies."

These initially appear to be topics and issues that are too painful for adolescents to deal with. But, the fact is that death and loss affect people of all ages, so it's good that this film opens the topics up for young viewers to react to, from the safe harbor of empathy.

Fact is, the film's realistic scenes are more plentiful and potent than its relatively few fantasy sequences, but we don't feel deprived, because the cast's performances are both pitch-perfect and heartfelt.

Hutcherson and Robb are excellent in their respective roles, and craft their portrayals without even looking like they're acting.

IN/G4

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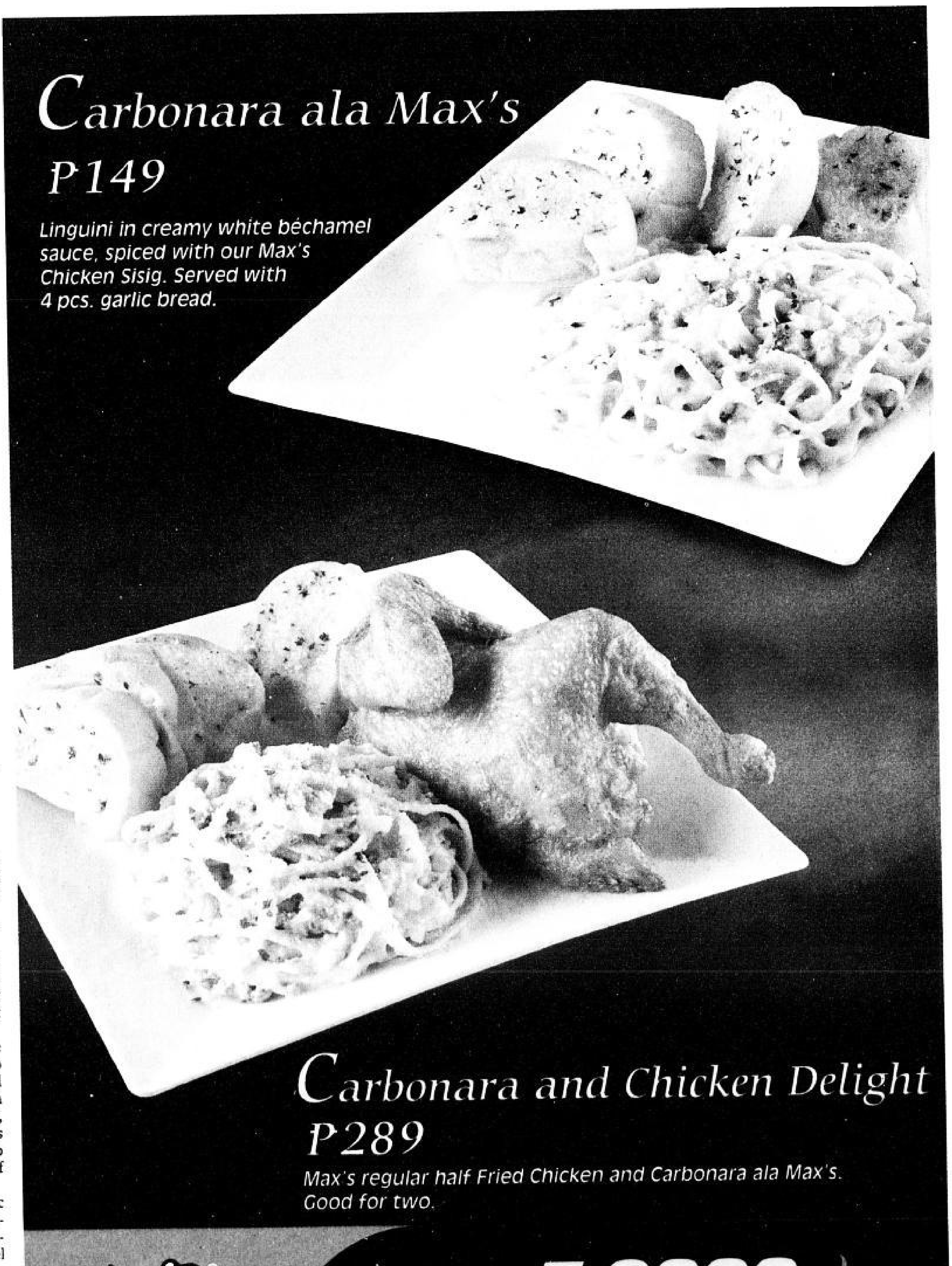

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YOU GOT ME 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	NUMBER 23 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50	BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	
EPIC MOVIE 1:40 / 3:40 / 5:40 / 7:40 / 9:40	MUSIC & LYRICS 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45	GHOST RIDER 2:20 / 4:50 / 7:20 / 9:50	MUSIC & LYRICS 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00

Alimall 5

1 PRIMEVAL 1:15 / 3:35 / 5:55 / 8:15	2 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING 1:20 / 3:35 / 5:50 / 8:05	3 YOU GOT ME 12:00 / 3 / 1:35 / 3:50 / 6:05 / 8:20
4 THE PROMISE 12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20	5 GHOST RIDER 1:05 / 3:35 / 6:05 / 8:35	DOLBY DIGITAL · dts · SDDS

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 NUMBER 23	2 PRIMEVAL	3 BRIDGE OF TERABITHIA	4 YOU GOT ME			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 FLUSHED AWAY	2 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING	3 THX PRIMEVAL GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA	5 THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND	6 YOU GOT ME	7 EPIC MOVIE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 PRIMEVAL	2 YOU GOT ME					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX MUSIC & LYRICS GUARANTEED SEATS	3 GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	4 FLUSHED AWAY GUARANTEED SEATS	5 YOU GOT ME GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX YOU GOT ME GUARANTEED SEATS	2 PRIMEVAL	3 FLUSHED AWAY	4 MUSIC & LYRICS	5 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 YOU GOT ME	2 PRIMEVAL	3 FLUSHED AWAY	4 THE FOUNTAIN			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 YOU GOT ME	2 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING	3 GHOST RIDER	4 PRIMEVAL	5 FLUSHED AWAY		

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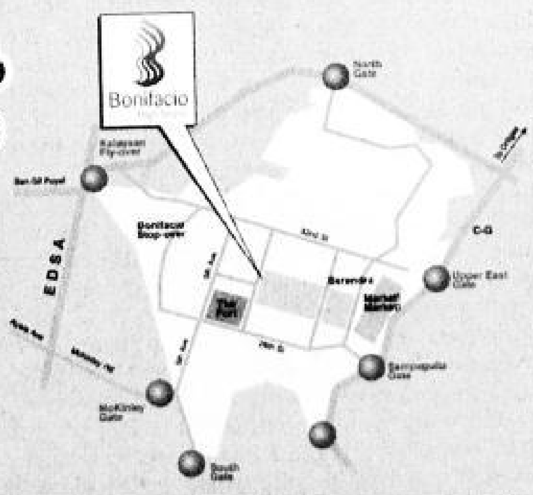

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'Idol' producers shrug off Net pics, girl stays on

RUSHES

AND PINOY FINALIST GETS THE BOOT.

We're officially annoyed. AJ Tabaldo has been voted off … and this after he got a unanimous nod on performance night from the three disagreeing judges! And Sanjaya Malakar is still in the running. Sigh.

She could win?

LOS ANGELES—Fans of "American Idol" on Thursday gave their backing to a female contestant purportedly shown in some X-rated Internet photos, voting to keep her on the show.

"Idol" fans have flooded online chat rooms and blogs arguing whether the photos really are of Antonella Barba and whether she'll get kicked off Fox network's tilt as a result. "Idol" producers have shrugged off the controversy.

The 20-year-old former college student from New Jersey, was one of 20 competitors who last week advanced to the latest round. Some expected her to be voted off because of her mediocre singing and criticism from the judges, others said her lack of talent may not be that important at this stage of the show.

"If a sex tape of Antonella makes the Internet she could win this competition," said entertainment news blog Bumpshack.

Celebrity judge Simon Cowell and fellow producer Nigel Lythgoe said in separate media interviews this week Barba's future is entirely up to fans who vote on the contestants.

Barba has kept mum. Her friend Amanda Coluccio, a fellow "Idol" hopeful eliminated earlier, told the New Jersey Star-Ledger that only the least graphic photos are of Barba. "She's the least slutty person I know," Coluccio was quoted as saying. Reuters

France honors Jude Law

LONDON—France honored actor Jude Law on Thursday for his contribution to cinema, describing him as "one of the most talented actors today."

French ambassador Gerard Errera named the star of "The Talented Mr. Ripley" and "Cold Mountain" a knight in the Order of Arts and Letters at a ceremony in London.

"I am speechless," Law said. "My mom and dad have lived in France for 15 years so really it is a country I share as my home."

France presents Order of Arts and Letters awards to French nationals and foreigners deemed to have significantly contributed to the country's cultural inheritance. Other past foreign recipients include Uma Thurman, Bruce Willis and David Bowie. *AP*

Jolie wants one more

HANOI, Vietnam—Angelina Jolie has filed papers to adopt a Vietnamese child, the country's top adoption official said Friday.

A US adoption agency representing the Hollywood star filed the papers this week at Vietnam's International Adoption Agency, said Vu Duc Long, the agency's director.

Jolie and her superstar partner, Brad Pitt, have three children—5-year-old Maddox, adopted from Cambodia; 2-year-old Zahara, adopted from Ethiopia; and another daughter, Shiloh, who was born to the couple in May. *AP*

Paul McCheerful

LONDON—Beatles Legend Paul McCartney appeared cheerful Thursday as he arrived in court for a preliminary hearing over his divorce from his estranged wife, Heather Mills.

"Good morning," the sharply-dressed musician said to waiting reporters.

One press report last month said McCartney is planning to offer Mills a 25-million-pound ($49 million) settlement to end the bitter divorce battle. *AFP*

Speaking of 'Idol' …

NEW YORK—"American Idol" winner Taylor Hicks needs his Soul Patrol to step up.

Hicks faces a tougher task: making the transition from reality TV star to established soul singer.

His self-titled, post-"Idol" album, released in December, debuted at No. 2 on the charts. It has sold a respectable 640,000 copies, but has slid to a dismal rank: 136 this week. Finalist Chris Daughtry is near the top of the charts with the debut of his band Daughtry, selling over 1 million records.

Hicks plans to take a grassroots approach, "to get out and tour the record." *AP*

Anna Nicole burial

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida—Anna Nicole Smith's body will leave for the Bahamas by private plane early Friday, and the starlet will be buried hours later, said the attorney given control of her remains after weeks of legal fighting.

Law enforcement will escort a hearse before dawn to Miami International Airport for the trip to the Bahamian capital of Nassau, said Richard Milstein, the court-appointed advocate for Smith's 5-month-old daughter, Dannielynn.

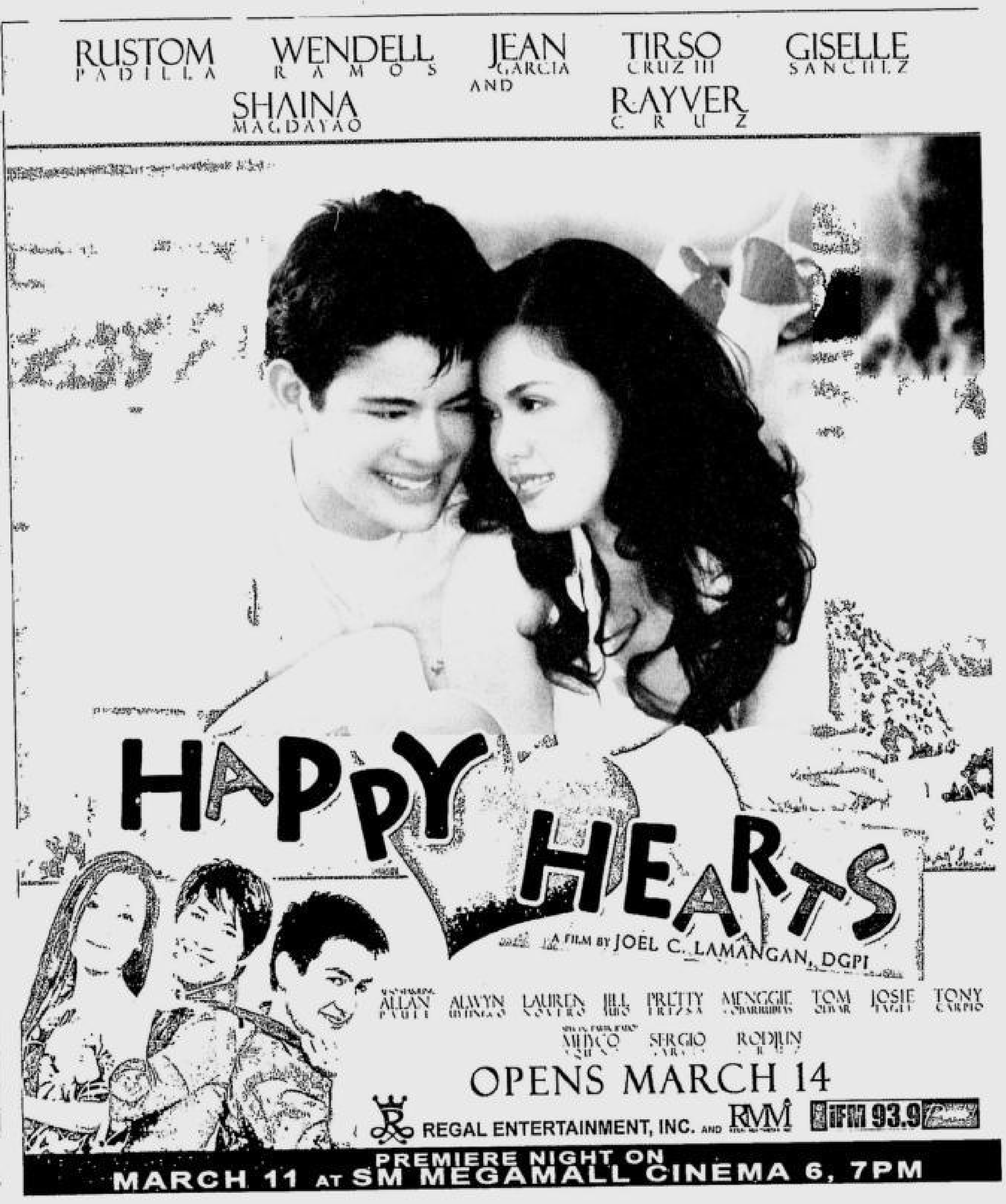
The funeral will take place later that morning in Nassau, Milstein said in a statement Thursday. Both services are closed to the public. *AP*

OFF-CAM

HEART and Echo shopping at Rustan's, Makati. RUDY ESPERAS

ANGEL and Richard at "The Promise" preem.

TV reporter Oscar Oida and Francine Prieto in SM Baguio after the flower fest. KAT REYES



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1. PRIMEVAL
2. MUSIC AND LYRICS
3. IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
4. FLUSHED AWAY/EPIC MOVIE
5. BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
6. CATCH AND RELEASE

PREMIERE CINEMA
YOU GOT ME
CENTERSTAGE
GHOST RIDER

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
CINEMA 2
FLUSHED AWAY
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1. EPIC MOVIE
2. CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3. MUSIC AND LYRICS
4. BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
5. THE PROMISE
6. PRIMEVAL
7. GHOST RIDER
8. IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
9. FLUSHED AWAY
10. NUMBER 23
11. YOU GOT ME
12. YOU GOT ME

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1. PRIMEVAL
2. MUSIC AND LYRICS
3. GHOST RIDER
4. RESERVED
5. THE PROMISE
6. YOU GOT ME
7. EPIC MOVIE
8. FLUSHED AWAY
9. BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
10. YOU GOT ME
11. NUMBER 23
12. IT'S A BOY GIRL THING

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1. IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
2. YOU GOT ME
3. MUSIC AND LYRICS
4. GHOST RIDER
5. THE PROMISE
6. PRIMEVAL
7. BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
8. YOU GOT ME
9. RESERVED
10. EPIC MOVIE
11. NUMBER 23
12. FLUSHED AWAY

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1. YOU GOT ME
2. GHOST RIDER
3. PRIMEVAL
4. FLUSHED AWAY
5. IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
6. EPIC MOVIE
7. BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
8. THE PROMISE
9. NUMBER 23
10. MUSIC AND LYRICS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1. GHOST RIDER
2. PRIMEVAL
3. BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
4. FLUSHED AWAY
5. IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
6. YOU GOT ME

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1. YOU GOT ME
2. BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
3. GHOST RIDER
4. FLUSHED AWAY
5. IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
6. EPIC MOVIE
7. NUMBER 23
8. PRIMEVAL
9. THE PROMISE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1. PRIMEVAL
2. YOU GOT ME
3. IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
4. GHOST RIDER

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1. PRIMEVAL
2. EPIC MOVIE
3. IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
4. THE HOLIDAY
5. BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
6. GHOST RIDER
7. FLUSHED AWAY
8. MUSIC AND LYRICS
9. YOU GOT ME
10. THE MESSENGERS
11. NUMBER 23
12. THE PROMISE

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323281-04
1. PRIMEVAL
2. YOU GOT ME
3. MUSIC AND LYRICS
4. GHOST RIDER

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1. PRIMEVAL
2. EPIC MOVIE
3. NUMBER 23
4. YOU GOT ME

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1. IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
2. PRIMEVAL
3. YOU GOT ME
4. GHOST RIDER

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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1. EPIC MOVIE
2. THE PROMISE
3. GHOST RIDER
4. PRIMEVAL
5. BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
6. YOU GOT ME
7. IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
8. FLUSHED AWAY

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1. PRIMEVAL
2. GHOST RIDER
3. BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
4. THE PROMISE
5. YOU GOT ME
6. YOU GOT ME

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1. PRIMEVAL
2. YOU GOT ME
3. THE PROMISE
4. GHOST RIDER

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1. BABEL
2. YOU GOT ME
3. GHOST RIDER
4. THE HOLIDAY

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1. GHOST RIDER
2. PRIMEVAL
3. THE PROMISE
4. THE FOUNTAIN
5. YOU GOT ME
6. YOU GOT ME

SM CIY LIPA (043) 756-7925
1. BABEL
2. GHOST RIDER
3. YOU GOT ME
4. THE CLEANER

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1. YOU GOT ME
2. BABEL
3. THE HOLIDAY
4. BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1. YOU GOT ME
2. BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
3. GHOST RIDER
4. PRIMEVAL

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1. YOU GOT ME
2. FLUSHED AWAY
3. GHOST RIDER
4. NUMBER 23

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1. GHOST RIDER
2. THE PROMISE
3. PRIMEVAL
4. YOU GOT ME

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1. PRIMEVAL
2. ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
3. CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
4. YOU GOT ME
5. THE CLEANER
6. GHOST RIDER

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1. GHOST RIDE
2. YOU GOT ME
3. THE CLEANER
4. PRIMEVAL

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1. MUSIC AND LYRICS
2. RESERVED
3. PRIMEVAL
4. YOU GOT ME
5. GHOST RIDER
6. CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
7. RESERVED
8. THE MESSENGERS

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1. THE FOUNTAIN
2. GHOST RIDER
3. PRIMEVAL
4. FLUSHED AWAY
5. MUSIC AND LYRICS
6. THE PROMISE
7. YOU GOT ME
8. CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

SM BACOLOD NOW OPEN
1. YOU GOT ME
2. PRIMEVAL
3. MUSIC AND LYRICS
4. THE MESSENGERS

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1 BRIDGE to TERABITHIA • THX
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

2 GMA 7 Batch 8
Workshop Graduation 10:00AM

3 GHOST RIDER
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

4 FLUSHED AWAY 1:20 3:25 5:30
EPIC MOVIE 7:30 9:50

5 YOU GOT ME
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 IT's A BOY GIRL THING
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 KABUL EXPRESS 12:20 2:40 5:00
MUSIC and LYRICS 7:20 9:40

8 PEPOT ARTISTA
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

9 THE NUMBER 23
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 PRIMEVAL
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

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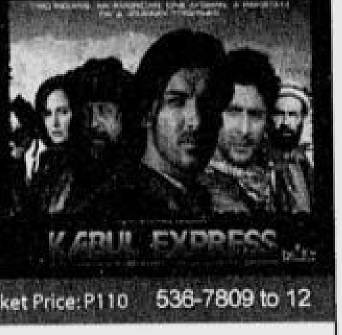
MTRCB Rating: PG13



ERMITA
Ticket Price: P110 536-7809 to 12

1 YOU GOT ME 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 BRIDGE to TERABITHIA 12:20 2:20 4:20
THE NUMBER 23 6:20 8:15 10:00

3 FLUSHED AWAY
10:10 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 EPIC MOVIE 10:20 12:35 2:50
GHOST RIDER 5:20 7:30 10:00

5 PRIMEVAL
10:10 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

7 ROME and JULIET
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

METRO EAST
Ticket Price: P100 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE NUMBER 23
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

2 FLUSHED AWAY
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

3 YOU GOT ME
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

4 EPIC MOVIE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:00

5 BRIDGE to TERABITHIA
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

6 GHOST RIDER
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

7 PRIMEVAL
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

8 IT's A BOY GIRL THING
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

NOVALICHES
Ticket Price: P91 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 PRIMEVAL
2 YOU GOT ME
3 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
4 FLUSHED AWAY
5 EPIC MOVIE
6 GHOST RIDER

PIONEER
Ticket Price: P102 687-5378

1 PRIMEVAL
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:40
2 FLUSHED AWAY
12:20 2:25 4:30 6:35 8:40
3 YOU GOT ME
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40
4 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
2:15 4:25 6:35 8:40

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3 MUSIC and LYRICS
4 APOCALYPTO
5 BLOOD and CHOCOLATE
6 GHOST RIDER

Connie & her camera

From page G1

What led you to "Rome"?

I told a friend about writing a script on lesbians. He said male gays were more colorful. I took it as a challenge to make people see that love knows no labels.

My inspiration was (singer) Aiza Seguerra and partner Chen. It reminded me of my own eight-year relationship with a former boyfriend, except that we're heterosexual.

I sat down with Aiza's group (of five lesbian couples). One of them told me, "There are no more straight women!"

While researching, I encountered women who've had intimate relationships with other women at some point. And I thought I was unconventional!

What is your stand on gay marriage? Gay rights?

To each his own. It's not about gender, labels or rules. The bottom line is how strong and fulfilling the relationship is, with or without marriage.

Do you feel comfortable with your debut being tagged as a "gay" film?

Whatever is clever, I usually say. It *is* a gay film, through the eyes of a straight woman. But it's not limited to gay viewers only. What I'm uncomfortable with is tagging it as a copycat of [Ol Parker's] "Imagine, Me & You." I only checked out that film *after* I had finished the "Rome" script.

What is your dream movie?

To cast Aga Muhlach and Vilma Santos in atypical roles. It would be an honor to work with them.

In ...

From page G1

Their inferiority is amazing for actors so young. They must be "old souls" who have an instinct for doing what's right, even if the intense emotions required of them are alien to their young lives so far.

The even younger actress who plays Hutcherson's kid sister is even more impressive in her smaller role, because she's able to do so much with so little. She comes across with the golden glow of the very young **Drew Barrymore** in "E.T., The Extra-terrestrial," decades ago.

Even better, this child actress isn't only bubbly and beautiful, she has a lot of sass, which she puts to zingily effective use in some of her "ornery" scenes, making them crackle and pop!

'Letters from Iwo Jima'

Clint Eastwood's "Letters form Iwo Jima," which views World War II through Japanese soldiers' eyes, is being screened exclusively at Ayala Malls cinemas, Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt 3. This companion and "minor image" piece to "Flags of our Fathers," also by Eastwood, is not to be missed.

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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	PRIMEVAL	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	R-13
2	FLUSHED AWAY	2:00, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 10:55	G
3	YOU GOT ME	2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 10:00	G
4	IT'S A BOY GIRL THING	1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	PG-13

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PRIMEVAL **R13** 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20	**MUSIC AND LYRICS** **PG13** 12:40,3:05,5:30, 7:55,10:20	**FLUSHED AWAY** **G** 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00
YOU GOT ME **G** 1:10,3:25,5:40, 7:55,10:10	**BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA** **G** 1:25,3:35,5:45 **THE NUMBER 23** **R13** 7:55,10:05	**IT'S A BOYGIRL THING** **PG13** 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25

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SHANG CINEPLEX

① **FLUSHED AWAY**
MTRCB GP
1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

② **IT'S A BOY GIRL THING**
MTRCB PG-13
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

③ **YOU GOT ME**
MTRCB GP
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

④ **MUSIC AND LYRICS**
MTRCB PG-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE — **PRIMEVAL** MTRCB R-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

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Leah Rozen, PEOPLE

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Owen Gleiberman, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

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simula March 5
pagkatapos ng Pangako Sa 'Yo
sa Primetime Bida

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ROUNDUP

Negros Arts Fair

CHINCHIN GUTIERREZ

ACTORS JOEL TORRE AND CHIN-Chin Gutierrez will share their passion and dedication to their craft at the "Meet the Artists" segment of the National Arts Fair today at the Negros Museum lobby.

The arts fair is a flagship project of the National Commission for Culture and Arts-Committee on Art Galleries, which is spearheaded by the Negros Cultural Foundation of the Province of Occidental Negros.

Call 7501481 or e-mail nationalartsfair.negros@gmail.com.

Int'l women's festival

The 17th International Women's Film Festival of the UP Film Institute opens tomorrow at the UP Film Institute Cine Adarna.

Selected international short films from Hungary and Israel will be screened at 5 p.m. The award-winning Spanish film "Sévigné" will have a gala screening at 7:30 p.m.

Other films to be shown are "La Passion de Maria Elena" (Mexico), "Amazones" (Netherlands) and "Ryna" (Switzerland). From the Philippines, it will feature "Romeo and Juliet," "Mudraks," "Inang Yaya" and "Alyana."

The film fest runs until March 8.

Dreamgirls preview

United International Pictures will hold a sneak preview of the movie musical "Dreamgirls" tomorrow and March 6 in selected cinemas in Metro Manila.

A musical set in the 1960s and 1970s with a predominantly African-American cast, "Dreamgirls" is adapted from the 1981 Broadway musical of the same title, which was based on the history of Motown and the evolution of American R&B music over the years.

The film follows the lives of three women—Effie White, Deena Jones and Lorrell Robinson—who, as members of an R&B singing group called "The Dreamettes," become famous as the backing group for soul singer James "Thunder" Early.

THE RING

'True Asian Horror'

"True Asian Horror," which premieres on Discovery Channel on March 7 at 11 p.m., is a two-part documentary that describes how Asian directors have combined local myths with filming techniques and innovative storytelling to produce scary movies.

The series includes scenes from the "Ring"—the Japanese film by Hideo Nakata, voted by audiences as the scariest movie ever—and modern horror classics such as Thailand's "The Eye" by Danny and Oxide Pang and Korea's "Phone" by Ahn Byeong-Ki.

UST campus film fest

The Varsitarian, the 79-year-old student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, is holding CineVita, UST's first major in-campus film festival from March 7 to 9 at the Thomas Aquinas Research Center.

The three-day film fest will showcase internationally acclaimed indie movies such as Brillante Mendoza's "Manoro," Rica Arevalo's "ICU Bed #7" and Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador" as well as local and international documentaries, shorts and digital films.

Admission is free.

Jericho in Ghana

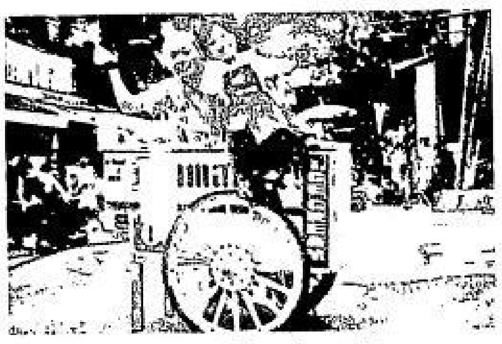
Jericho Rosales flew to Ghana, Africa via Dubai the other day to do a concert tomorrow with some local celebrities at the National Theater.

He was accompanied by Soundcheck director/sound engineer Rards Corpus and his personal manager Marinez Carvajal-Elizalde of Genesis.

Jericho will do a tri-media promotional tour and have a press conference upon arrival in the country, where his soap opera "Timeless (Pangako Sa Iyo)" is a big hit.

Plans are also afoot for concerts in Kenya, Kota Kinabalu, Kuala Lumpur and Brunei.

Musical comedy


"SAAN Nagtatago si Happiness?"

"Saan Nagtatago si Happiness?" will be screened in all SM digital theaters nationwide starting March 7.

A hit in last year's Cinemalaya film festival, the light semi-musical cum comedy movie tackles man's elusive search for happiness in typical Pinoy fashion.

The movie stars stage actor Andy Bais in the role of Tikyo, an ice cream vendor searching for his lost mother. It also features Ricky Davao, Caridad Sanchez, Nanette Inventor, Rez Cortez, Nonie Buencamino, January Isaac, Mica Torre and Elijah Castillo.

Suspense-drama

Set at the FBI Crisis Negotiation Unit in Los Angeles, "Standoff" is a suspense-drama series that centers on top-ranked FBI Crisis negotiators who are romantically involved with each other.

Vowed to keep the relationship a secret, Matt Flannery (Ron Livingston) reveals he's been sleeping with his colleague, Emily Lehman (Rosemarie Dewitt), during a tense hostage crisis.

The series, created by Craig Silverstein and directed by Tim Story, airs every Tuesday, 9 p.m. at C/S Channel.

New sitcom

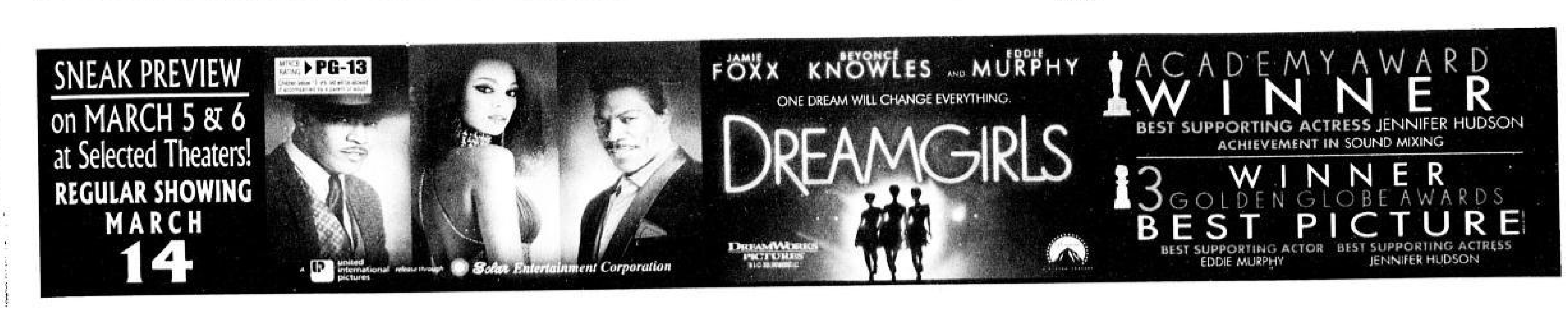
Solar Entertainment and RPN present "Kemis (*ke misis umaasa*)," a new TV sitcom inspired by the real-life situation of family men who take on a new role—from breadwinners to "housebands."

It stars Bayani Agbayani, who plays the main character Gordon Bagatob, a freelance cartoonist and chemist, rather, "kemis."

The reversal of roles happens after Gordon's wife Clarisse, played by Cherie Gil, decides to try her luck abroad.

Gordon is left to look after their daughters Honeydew (Pauleen Luna) and Pennylane (Kiray).

The series airs Mondays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. starting March 12 on RPN.



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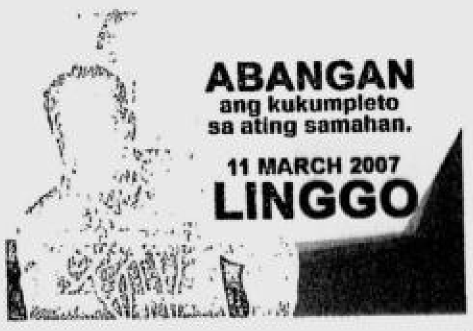
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LINGGO

Christina Ricci: Wild, sexy, terrific as 'nympho' in new film

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—CHRISTINA RICCI plays a damaged girl in "Black Snake Moan," the kind that some would dismiss as a town slut. So when she showed up at the interview elegantly coiffed, made-up and dressed, the effect was breathtaking.

In essence, she was saying: That was the actress playing a part; this is me. And what a part it is. Christina plays Rae, an abused young woman in the South, taken in by an ex-bluesman (the great **Samuel L. Jackson**), also emotionally damaged, who attempts to help her while healing himself in the process. She is dressed only in underwear most of the time in the movie. She has a sex scene with **Justin Timberlake**, who does creditably as her boyfriend.

At one point, Samuel's character Lazarus (a significant name, you will agree) chains Christina to a radiator so she would not try to escape while he tries to heal her. Film reviewers have been using "nymphomania" to describe Rae's "wicked ways" but Christina thinks that term is dated. That condition is a "male fantasy," she contended.

In the interview, Christina talked movingly about researching and learning more about child abuse, which leads victims to act self-destructively later in their lives. She revealed, "It was truly painful to discover and understand all of that but once I did, it felt like I did her (Rae) and other victims a little justice."

For her bravery and compelling performance, Christina is getting raves from critics. Samuel, whom we also interviewed, was already touting Christina for the Oscars… 2008. He said, "I have been in trouble with quite a few people for saying what's on my mind—which leads me to say (laughter), I hope next year, when the award ceremonies ... comes around, the bravery, professionalism and artistry that Christina has shown in this film doesn't go unnoticed."

You have always been unafraid to be sexual on camera but this film takes it to another level. How was that for you?

As an actor, I recognized this woman. There's a well-established link between childhood abuse and young women who are promiscuous and self-destructive, who self-abuse and have no self-esteem. To me, this extreme behavior was almost not sexual because it's so self-destructive. I felt so passionately about [Rae]. The more research about what she would have been experiencing and feeling, the more testimonials and horrifying statistics that I read, the more that I felt so much more compassion for her and victims all over the word. Any trepidation I might have had was completely overtaken by my passion for the project.

> 'Passion for the project overtook all the trepidation that I had at the start'

CHRISTINA Ricci during the interview

It must have been very painful for you to learn a great deal more about victims of child abuse as part of your research.

I really needed to understand what's described in the script as her nymphomania. What I learned is that nymphomania is basically a defunct term. It really doesn't mean much except for being a male fantasy (laughing). There are definitely sexual additions. But the term nymphomaniac is just like just calling somebody crazy—it doesn't really mean much.

I did tons of research and realized that what this woman would most likely be suffering from was Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. You're no longer being abused but you're still feeling whatever emotions went along with that. If you think back to her as a child being sexually abused every single day, imagine the amount of fear and dread the child has.

Flash-forward 20 years and ... she's still feeling that same terror, fear and dread but there's no more abuse to give her the relief of not worrying

WILD/ H4

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Readers tackle Kris & James ..

From Charity Tan (ate_charing_007@yahoo.com), P.O. Box 2119 BSB BS 8673 Negara Brunei Darussalam:

Gusto ko lang mag-react kay Hope. *Ano ba ang gusto niyang palabasin? Gusto niyang sumikat?* Hope, *alam mong may asawa na si* James—*at si* Kris Aquino *pa!*

Kung hindi man nahiya kay Kris, *mahiya ka sa sarili mo. Galit na galit ako sa 'yo at naawa ako kay* Kris *kasi ang bait naman niya. Inaamin niya ang mga pagkakamali niya, kahit gano'n siya kayaman at kasikat.* She deserves to be loved.

Bakit ba inaagawan mo pa siya? Ang daming lalaki diyan. Kahit si James *ang nag-flirt sa iyo … kahit ano'ng gawin nang lalake, kung ayaw ng babae, walang mangyayari.*

Alam mo ba kung gaano kahirap ang kalagayan ng buntis? Sana hindi ka ma-karma, Hope. *Sayang ang ganda mo kung wala kang utak. Nakakainis ka talaga.*

From Laura C. Chavda (elsee718@hotmail.com):

Mr. Bayani San Diego: You couldn't be more right when you noted that all James Yap seems to be getting is a slap on the wrist. I saw the Yaps on "Rated K" and I fumed and cringed as Kris gave Hope a mouthful and James just sat there.

How dare Kris talk to the other woman like that. I am not pro-Hope. This whole thing is unfortunate but, in my opinion, the main culprit is James. Not that Hope is not in the wrong.

James was a willing participant. He could have chosen not to show up at that clinic if he truly had no intention of reciprocating the girl's advances—if Hope truly was the aggressor.

Kris shouldn't have even made a public statement just because she is on the other side this time. Wasn't there news during their engage-

FEEDBA

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3 RESERVED
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2 BLOOD CHOCOLATE
3 YOU GOT ME

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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
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3 BABEL
4 APOCALYPTO

Filinvest Festival Cinema
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2 GHOST RIDER
3 EPIC MOVIE
4 YOU GOT ME
5 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
6 PRIMEVAL
7 FLUSHED AWAY
8 YOU GOT ME
9 NUMBER 23
10 THE PROMISE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 GHOST RIDER
2 PRIMEVAL
3 YOU GOT ME

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 THE PROMISE
2 YOU GOT ME

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 TROIKA
2 THE PROMISE

Blue Wave Mall Union
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Nino, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) FLUSHED AWAY
2 (DOLBY) PRIMEVAL
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2 SAPLOT
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1 CODENAME THE CLEANER
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3 TROIKA
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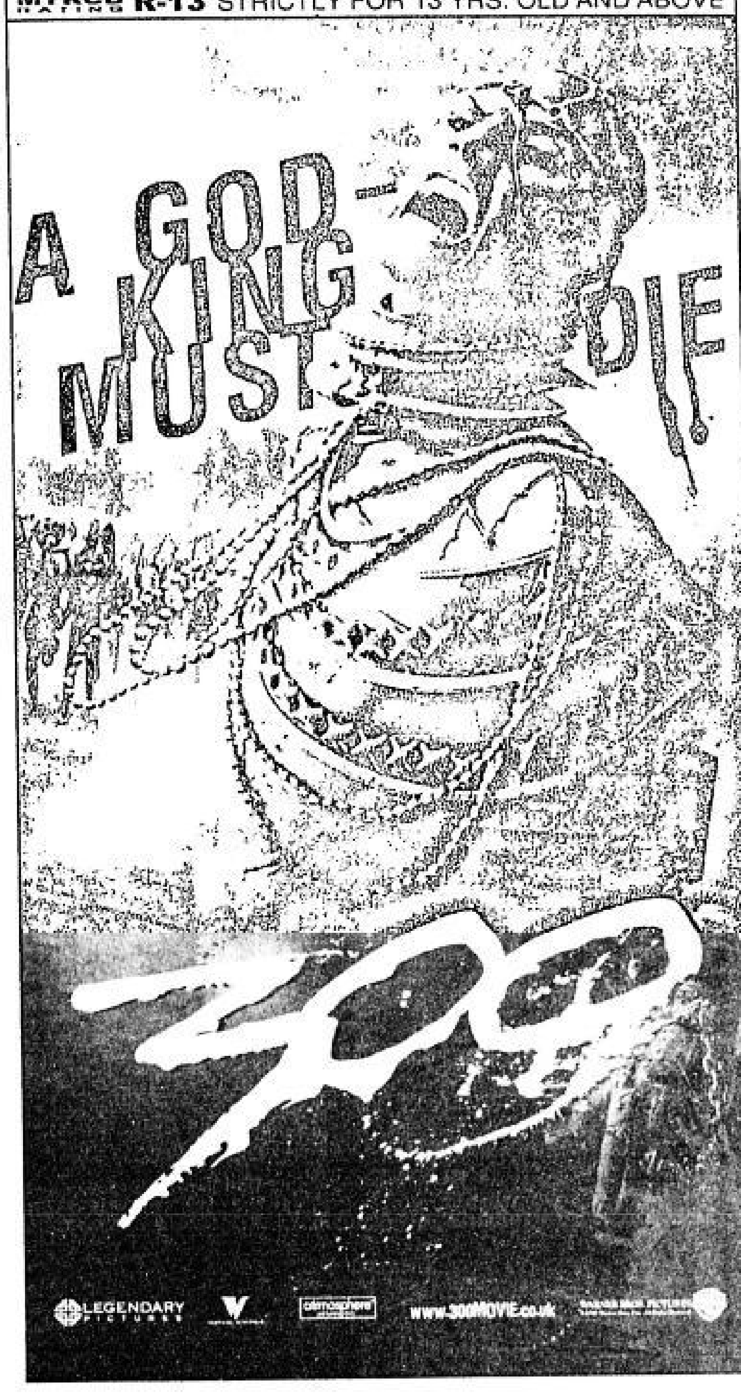

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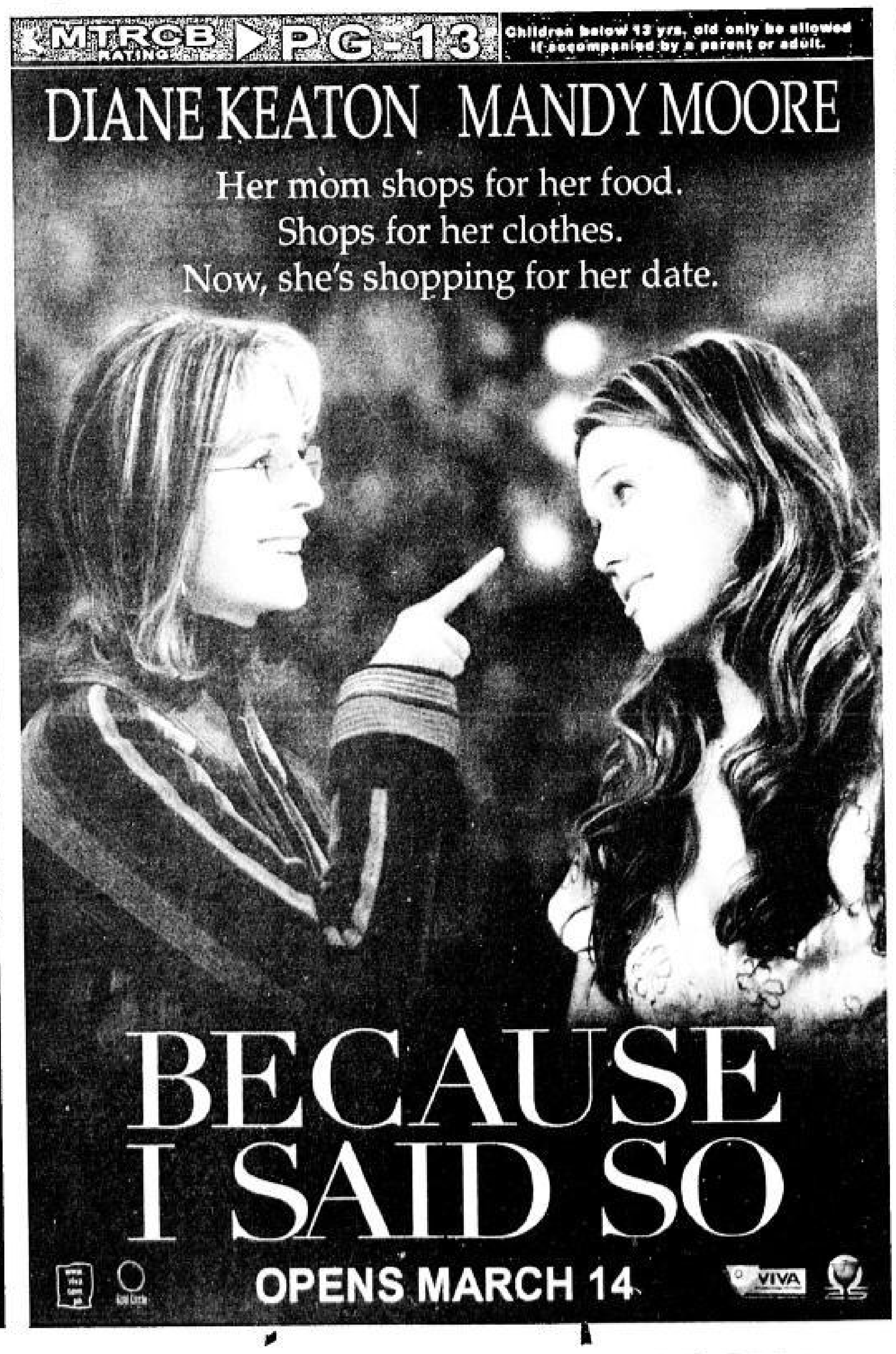
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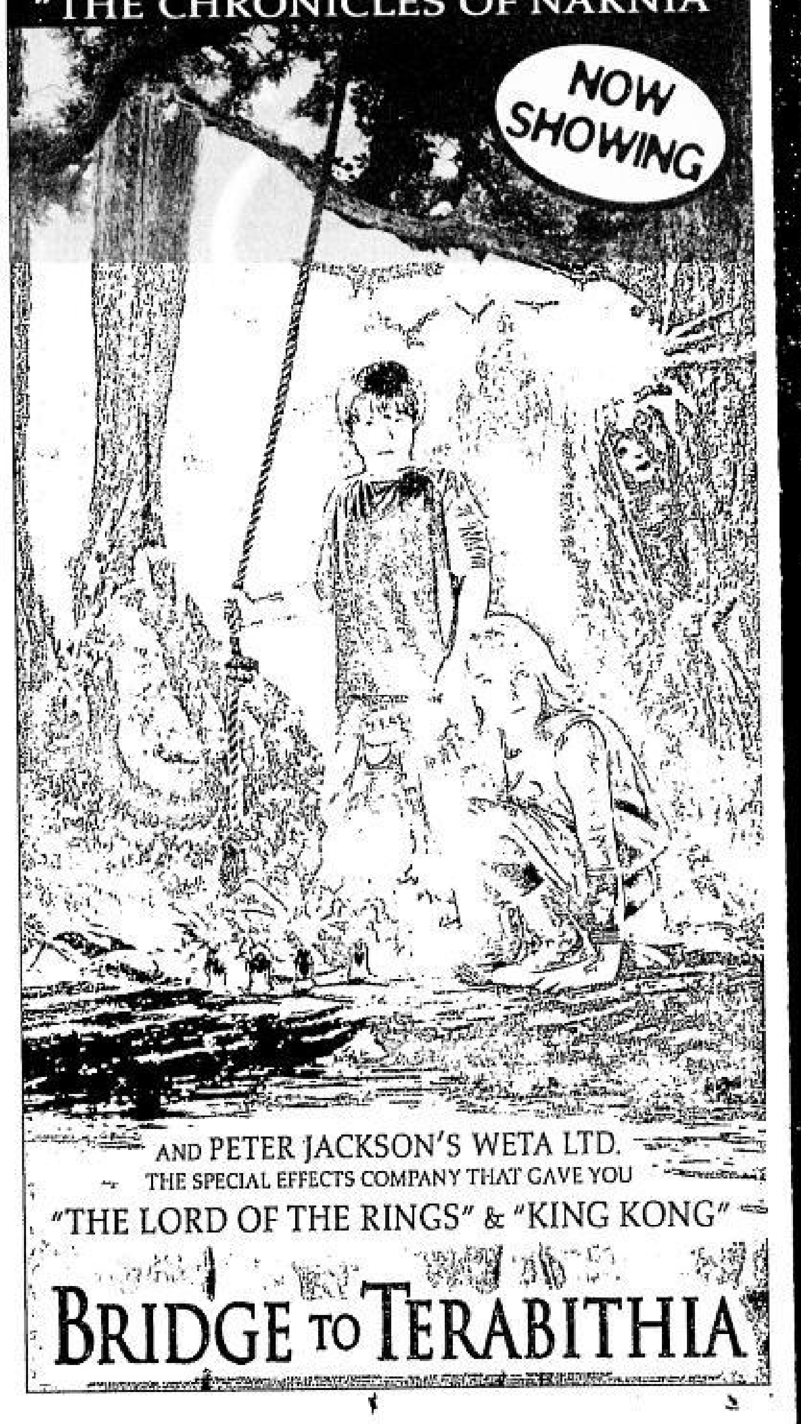
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. and Hope

nt that James had a pregnant girlfriend? Isn't this a dose of her own medicine? Kris ms to be begging for public sympathy now, d working hard on damage control.

om L. De Jesus (dejesus143@yahoo.com), s Angeles, USA:

The problem is between James and Hope. ris need not say anything or answer any questions. James should be the one to fix this.

ACK :

Transparency or bad taste?

From Eva Camaligan Colby (colbyco_69@hotmail.com), 36 W 34th -14C, NY, NY:

Kris Aquino loves to lash out but, obviously, 't take any. This circus which, she claims, has used her much grief, could have been avoid- had she opted not to open her mouth!

Her intention is suspect, given her propensity wash her dirty linen in public, especially in light of her network affiliation's constant quest for ratings. Yes, she and her spouse are public figures, but there are graceful and tactful ways of addressing their domestic issues.

Sadly, Ms.Aquino-Yap has confused bad taste for transparency. She chose to lie with dogs, now she complains of the fleas. Obviously, she can no longer take the heat that she herself started. Too bad, it may be too late to get out of the kitchen!

From Yvette Tan (yugit123@yahoo.com), 345 Upper QM Baguio City:

When Kris said to Hope, "How dare you say sorry to me, *na umibig ka lang,* that you endangered this unborn child because of your actions"—well, for me it smacked of hypocrisy! Did she think of Cindy Conwi when she was avidly pursuing Alvin Patrimonio? Did she think of Phillip Salvador's wife and kids (not to mention Vivialyn Dungca) when she was in throes in love with him? And did she think of Alma Moreno and her kids when she was in that relationship with Joey Marquez?

When karma came knocking on her door, Kris decided to take the moral high ground. That's laughable. When she implied that the rival network had something to do with Hope's tell-all, did she think of the numerous times that she exploited similar situations on her own talk show?

From Mabait N Pilipina (pinklilysam@yahoo.com) 2828 Mother Ignacia Rd., Quezon City:

Is this karma? Now Kris knows how the real Mrs. Phillip Salvador and Alma Moreno felt when she was having an affair with Ipe and Chong.

From Chie (chie.creativille@gmail.com) 149 Sct. De Guia corner Sct. Ybardolaza, Brgy. Sacred Heart, Quezon City:

Nestor Torre has voiced what so many of us feel about these celebrities who have no sense of accountability for their public persona. [I and my friends] have made it a point not to patronize products endorsed by Kris because that would [mean accepting] her behavior. It's not even because of the mistakes she's made—a lot, to be sure—because nobody's perfect. Rather, it's her attitude—her rudeness, conceit and lack of respect for other people. I'd attribute this to poor breeding if it weren't for the fact that her mother is Cory Aquino.

This latest episode may all the more bring her endorsement offers. Then I guess we can only blame those companies. How do you get some sense into them?

I say, boycott products that don't observe ethical standards in choosing endorsers. It's important to me … and it has become more urgent because, recently, I heard my daughter playing a game wherein she mimics Kris Aquino!

Karma's a bitch

From Robert Richard Araneta, 17 Cambridge Circle. North Forbes, Makati City (sent to Readers' Advocate):

I've been following the Kris-James saga for the past few days, watching all the interviews on YouTube, as well as reading the newspaper articles. [To] James Yap, the 25-year-old gutter boy driven by his testosterone with nothing between his ears: Yes, deny your affair. After all, Hope is your level. She'd be easier to dismiss and everyone would take your word over hers. We wouldn't want your fantasies of fame, women and prestige go down the drain would we? Screw Kris (pun intended), and it would all be taken away from you.

Vicki Belo is siding with James. Yep, we wouldn't want your clinic to be labeled as "whorehouse," right?

And Kris: Yes, play the victim here. But if you had used your head, there would be no need to [do that]. Stop going for guys who simply show interest in you. Get to know them first. Had you done that with James instead of marrying him after only a couple of months, you would have known he was a player in and out of the court. Lastly, karma's a bitch isn't it? Didn't James leave his seven-month-pregnant girlfriend for you? He may not have left you but you'd be crazier if you take him back.

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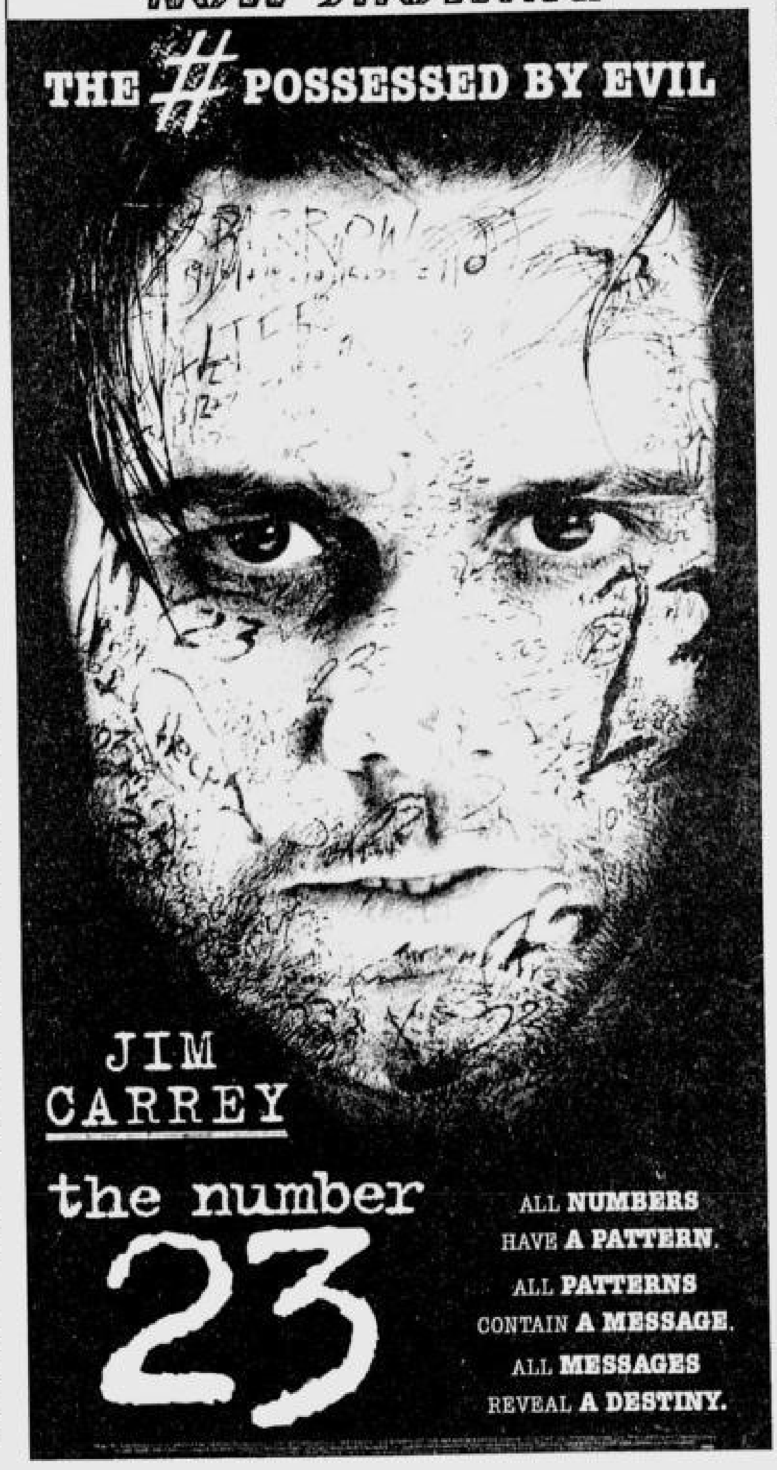
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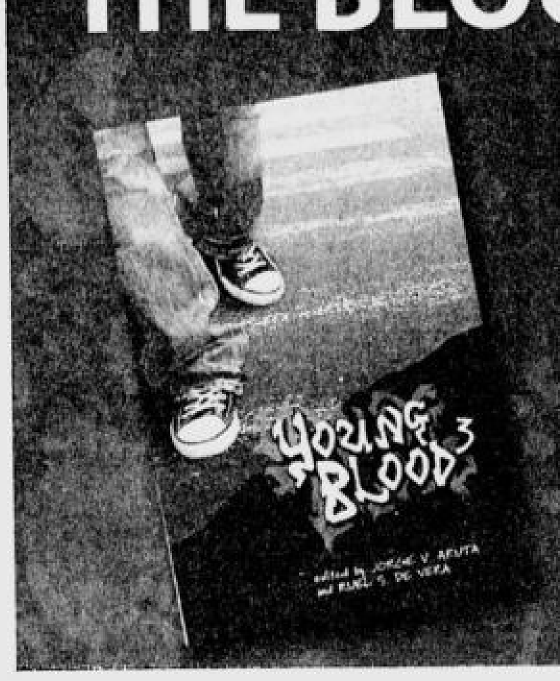

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Christina Ricci: Wild, sexy . . .

From page H1

about it anymore. Never having gotten any help, she creates abusive situations for herself. It's a coping mechanism ... self-destructive in the same way that people turn to drugs and alcohol or cutting.

A lot of [victims] say they would rather die than be raped again. In a way [Rae] is saying, this is never going to happen to me again because I am doing it to myself. I am in control.

How comfortable were you being half-undressed most of the time?

I really tried to understand who [Rae] was and the kind of pain that she lives with day to day. Her body has caused her nothing but pain so her reaction will be so extreme, almost to ignore, disregard, pretend it's not there. She has this very bad view of herself—that she is there to be used, misused and dismissed.

I needed to lose any sense of self-consciousness. I didn't cover up between shots because I needed to get used to being like that. I needed to get into her mind space—she doesn't care if she's got clothes on or not. The crew also had to get used to seeing me like that. That allowed me [lose] self-consciousness. I also thought that given the weight of the subject matter and the amount of victims there are in the world, it would have been inappropriate for me to bring vanity into the equation.

WITH Justin Timberlake as her boyfriend...

Justin's scene with a gun was quite powerful. What do you think about him as an actor?

I was very surprised. I was impressed by this choice of material for him. This is not a vanity project and he was great. He really connected. He was very open and he did a lot of things that took me years to learn.

You are a veteran compared with Justin. Did you try to relax him while he was doing those intimate scenes with you?

I didn't need to. He was the consummate professional. By the time we got to those scenes, we had been doing other scenes together. We had a great on-set relationship. He's surprisingly silly and fun to be around.

Were those chains for real?

The chain was real but it wasn't that painful. I wanted to use a real chain because it helped the way that my character would react. The second someone hands you a prop that's made out of foam or plastic, we're making a movie (laughing).

Can you tell us what you did to land this part?

Craig Brewer didn't see me for this part at all. I wrote him a letter. Stephanie Allain, one of the producers, happened to see me at this restaurant. She said to Craig, "I think she looks very different than what you think she looks like." So then I got the audition. [And] then they were worried that I wasn't sexual enough. My publicist and agents inundated him with sexy images ... of me until finally they were like okay, fine, we'll hire her.

Are you still with (actor) Adam Goldberg?

Yes.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

... and Samuel L. Jackson as her "healer"

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DOMINGO, MARIA GRACIA MORALEDA
DONATO, JONATHAN AYALA
DOYONGAN, YVONNE IVY LIKIT
DUAY, SEARLE AICHELLE SANTOS
DUÑGO, CLAUDINE ALLYSON REYES
DY ECHO, TERENCE JUSTIN FESTIN
DY, BENEDICT ELDRED VILLAREAL
ECAT, DOMINIC AILY G.
EDEP, DEXTER ENRICK DELA CRUZ
ENOMOTO, HIDEO PALACAY
ENVERGA, JUAN MIGUEL PARAISO
ESPINOSA, CHRISTINE INGRID MUÑOZ
ESTOISTA, JOHN PAOLO PAGALILAUAN
FERNANDEZ, PAULINE ISABELLE AGDA
FLORES, LORD JOHN SORIANO
FORTUNA, SEAN JULIAN CRUZ
FRANCIA, FEDERSON JOSEPH ROBINO
FRANCISCO, ALEXIS JOSHUA URETA
FRANCISCO, MARC RHETT CRUZ
FRUTO, JOHN JASON ZAMORA
GALANG, FRANCIS ADRIAN REY
GALVEZ, RITA MARIA CARMEN REYES
GAMBOA, RICA RAE CUSTODIO
GARCIA, DALE WILSON II AGULO
GERALDINO, SHAULA MAE POMBUENA
GERONIMO, KIM RAPANA
GESMUNDO, GESELLE ELLEMA
GIBE, HEZRON PAMILOZA
GO, EARVIN JOSHUA TAN
GOMEZ, RIGEL REVILLO
GONZALES, JENNICA MARIE SALVATERA
GUERRA, ALLIAH CZARIELLE RELAYSON
GUTIERREZ, RAYMOND VALDEZ
HAGONIA, KAISER VILLAGANTOL
HERRERA, CHRYSOLOGUS ETORMA
HILADO, JEREMY ALAN FERNANDEZ
HUELAR, ADRIAN JANSSEN LAMBOSON
INOFERIO, KARLA CAMILLE ALCALA
JACINTO, JUSTINE APRIL CADIZ
JACINTO, RYAN ANTHONY VILAR
JAMLANG, JAMICO YCO
JAMON, JETHRO AARON MEJIA
JIMENEZ, ARIADN ZOE BANZON
KAM, CHARLEEN GRACE RODRIGUEZ
LABALAN, GIZZELLE GOLDA GONZALES
LABOR, FRANCIS GERALD PASAWA
LAM, ALRON JAN FERNANDEZ
LAÑA, ERNEST JOHN MICAH RINGOR
LAO, CARMELA ANTOINETTE SIO
LARIN, MICHELLE VILORIA
LATORRE, DARELL JAMES GALLO
LEE, VANNAH MARJOLAINE CORAZA
LEGASPI, MARY ANNJAENETTE VIDANES
LEGASPI, PETER RAI DESCANZO
LIANG, SHARLAINE LOUISSE PEREZ
LIGON, JUAN ANTONIO
LIM, TRISTAN JONEL LEDESMA
LIM, ZEUL JASSER EKONG
LINGAO, AMANDA ISABELLE RAMIREZ
LINTAO, RYAN CRISTIAN VERGARA
LORENZO, ANGELO MIGUEL PEREZ
MABUNGA, RONN MICHAEL IGUIN
MACINAS, IAN DANIEL NAGUIT
MADRID, JACOB RAPHAEL GOZON
MANANGU, ROMEO BEN VENTURANZA
MANDAC, JOHNA PAULINE OCAMPO
MANUEL, RAOUL DANNIEL ABELLAR
MANUNTAG, MONICA EARL GUINTU
MARASIGAN, EMMANUEL DE CASTRO
MARIANO, J STEPHEN DUNCAN DE VERA
MARIGOMEN, PACO LORENZO ADEVA
MARTIREZ, NINA RUTH CERBO
MATUGAS, MIGUEL RHETT MARTINEZ
MATUS, CHRIS HANZEL ABITRIA
MAULION, EDWARD JOSEPH MANDIGMA
MERCADO, JERU SEBASTIAN
MILLA, FRANCIS JORDAN CHAVEZ
MINA, ROSA FIDES GOÑO
MONTES, JOHN FREDRICK MARES
MONTEVIRGEN, LUIGI PERALTA
MORABE, DANIEL JOSEPH SANTOS
NACION, LUIGI RAMON AUDRIC SIMPAO
NARVAS, JAN PAOLO LOPEZ
NAVARRO, KAMILA ISABELLE ALABADO
NOCUM, ARIZZA ANN SAHI
NOLASCO, GABRIEL BRIONES
NONOG, LEVYNCE QUISORA
NUÑEZ, MA. MOPER DIONALEIGH BOMBASE
OCAMPO, ALISSANDRA ABBY CINCO
OCHAVE, VICTOR JOSEPH DIONISIO
OLASIMAN, G'RALZ PAJO
OLAYAN, IMMA CONEY PAYAC
ONG, ALBION AUSTIN ANDRE TUMANG
OPAON, MARCONI LOUISE CAYASAN
OQUENDO, ELAINE JOYCE SALES
ORENSE, JASPER EDWARD ABLOG
ORTIZ, FRANCIS UY
OSORIO, JUSTIN REY ARELLANO
PABLO, CHRISELLE FLORES
PAJADO, ROBERT ADRIAN SALAMAT
PALARUAN, NIKKI JANE DANIEL
PAMINTUAN, DANTE JR. PEREDO
PANGILINAN, JAY BERNARDO
PARAFINA, JAN HARVEY SANTOS
PASCUAL, JOSE ANTONIO JOSON
PE BENITO, IAN PAOLO ANUNCIACION
PEABODY, STEVEN JOSEPH CASTILLO
PINZA, JAYSON GABRIEL DIMASAÑGAL
PLES, DAVID JUSTIN RUIZ
POSADAS, PIA JOSEFINA HERNANDEZ
PRECLARO, NARCISO JR. RECELLA
PUACHE, JOHN PATRICK JULIANES
PURISIMA, DIO MARK ANGELO LICUP
QUEBRAR, ALBERT CANTOS
RAGUDO, CARL CHESTER QUINTO
RAMIREZ, JURIEL KRISTAN FONTE
REBATO, PATRICK LEO FUENTEBELLA
REYES, MIGUEL ARNOLD SILVERIO
REYES, NOELLE DOMINIQUE BOLOS
REYES, YVES IRA ANTOLIN
RICA, ARIEL RAYE VIVAS
RIMANDO, NIGEL FLORES
RIVERA, EIDAN CESAR DELA CRUZ
ROMERO, JOHN VINCENT FUERTE
ROMERO, NICHOLAS RANCHES
ROMERO, ROLAND ALBERT AUSTRIA
RUBIA, FRANK PERRY TROYO
RULLOG, EMMERSON PONSECA
SABADO, PAMELA PANGONILO
SALAZAR, CARL RAYMUND PAGUNSAN
SALCEDO, KENT JOSHUA GARCIA
SALLIMAN, ALIM JIBRIL DATUMANONG
SAMSON, STUART MACASO
SAN PEDRO, CARLA MARIZ SEVILLA
SAN PEDRO, MANUEL VICTOR BAILON
SANTELICES, JOANNA PATRICIA B
SANTOS, ALDRIN EXEQUIEL CABRAL
SANTOS, ANTHONY JOHN BORJA
SARMIENTO, ELIHU CORNELIUS GRANADOS
SARMIENTO, SHELLA PANGAN
SARZA, RIANN MARTIN OLIQUINO
SAY, JAN MICHAEL MENDOZA
SE, GABRIEL LACSON
SEPARA, KARL JOSEF NIÑO JIMENEZ
SERAFICO, ALFONSO LUIS D.
SIMPAO, KIARA CAMILLE DA SILVA
SIMPELO, DAN JUSTIN ALCANTARA
SISON, RAPHAEL LEANDRO LU
SOLIVEN, RICHELLE CHRISTIANNE VITUG
SUCALDITO, MA. SERGIA FATIMA PAPIONA
SY, AMIEL SY
SY, GERICO ARQUIZA
SY, KAREN NICOLE RAMIREZ
TABLANTE, KAROLINA GUEVARA
TABOR, PATRICK IAN GUMAFELIX
TAGARO, EMMANUEL JEROME LAZARO
TALAMPAS, JEROME PARIS
TAMON, LIEZEL UY
TAN, IEGO MA. EMMANUEL JIMENEZ
TAN, NICOLE MARELLA GARCIA
TAN, WILLY MAZO
TIANCO, JOSE PAOLO BELANGEL
TIOSIN, JON BRYAN SANTIAGO
TURINGAN, JAMILLE
UY, EDWARD WILLIAM KO
VIDAL, ADRIAN RAMOS
VILLAFLOR, LAURICE ANGELI VICENTUAN
VILLANUEVA, JEREMY
VILLEGAS, ARIANNE KRIS CAMILONG
WEECHEE, CHARMAINE TIU
WONG, DESIREE LORRAINE YENCO
YAN, EDVALYNN MARIELLE JOSON
YANGCO, SARAH JESSICA SANTIAGO
YAP, LANCE GILBERT YAO
YU, ANGELICA JOY GAYAS
YU, REBECCA GEORGIA VISTRO
YUTUC, RUELLE MARTIN
ZURBITO, KRISTOFFER WILLIAM ESPARRAGO

PSHS – BICOL REGION CAMPUS
ABEJO, JOHN RIO MATEO
ABOGADO, ANTHONY FELIX JUEGO
AGUSTIN, ALEXANDRA NICOLE D.
ALGODON, SHELA MARIE LLENARESAS
ALLER, RHIZA GENERAL
ALVAREZ, JHON EDWARD CANJA
ANGELES, JAYVEE SAN JOSE
ANSAY, PATRICIA A.
ARTIAGA, MIGUEL CARMELO BRAGAIS
AVILA, ROY JONATHAN ADORNA
BALMADRID, NOEL LEE VARGAS
BALUYOT, STEVEN ARTHUR CRUZ
BELGICA, KRISTINE JOY ALIS
BOLO, CARL EMERSON JUDAVAR
BORJA, VANESSA GAIL LANUZO
BRIONES, GLENN RAY BELDA
BRON, RAMON GIAN APELLIDO
BURAC, RAFAEL LUIS POBLETE
BUROG, JOMARI GABRIEL DELOS REYES
CACERES, JELAH NIEVA
CALARA, DONNE CASEY LEAÑO
CALLEJA, ELOISA ANNE JIMENEZ
CANTON, ROMEO JULIO LATAP
CARIÑO, CARLO JONAS ROBRIGADO
CARREON, ARIES ANGELO DINO
CASIA, DAN RONIEL ROBOSA
CERIO, ART ANGELO PAAT
CIRUJALES, STEVENZ ALIANZA
CORNEJO, MARIE RACHELLE JANE CELETARIA
DEFEO, JOHN JOEL FAMILARA
DEL BARRIO, LEA FRANCISCO
DEL ROSARIO, JOSEPH CUAÑO
DEPONE, VON JERIC GARCIA
DY, KENDRICK JEREMIAH VITO
ERVAS, ERIC GALIDO
ESPALDON, IAN ESTOLAS
ESTRELLADO, JAN YLAINE DIAZ
FAUSTINO, ANGELINE MAE GARRIDO
GANA, JOSE EMMANUEL GOZON
GAPAYAO, KARL ROTSEN HOLDIEM
GAVINIO, MARK BUEMIA
GOMEZ, PATRICIA ANNE MONSERATE
HERMO, MA. ISABELLA GAITE
IMPERIAL, MARIA FEONA VARGAS
ISORENA, GERALD SEBASTIAN VIVAS
JAVIER, IAN P.
JESALVA, FHRANZ MUÑOZ
JESALVA, JOSELITO JR. BAÑARES
JESORO, VENUS VALLADOLID
LANGCAUON, ARIEL CORDIAL
LANUZA, APRIL DAWN ERLANO
LERIO, ALEXIS JUDE CASI
LOMITAO, JEZYL ANTONETTE VILLAMAYOR
LORICO, JAWORDAN DARCHIE GATCHALIAN
MALIGON, ARIES E.
MANAHAN, MA. NOELLE CAMACHO
MATIENZO, NED JOSIAH PAMORADA
MENES, CHARLES WILLIAM ORESCA
MOLINA, JOSHUA REY PANESA
NAVEZA, HAZEL GAJERO
NIEVA, FRANCIS IGNATIUS LOBIS
OLAGUER, PAULA CELINA VALENCIANO
ORANTE, KRISTIAN LEONARD ORAP
PACARDO, ESTELITO JR. HUGO
PATRIARCA, ARRA CABANTOG
PECASO, ARTHUR JIM CEA
PELLOSIS, MARYLENE YUKIM
RAGOS, JOHN ANSEL ALMOCERA
RAPIRAP, KIMBERLY PAGUIA
ROQUID, KENNETH ANTHONY REMOT
RUBIO, MARY JANE TALAN
SALVADOR, SHAMAINE ANNE SAN JOSE
SANCHEZ, CLARISELLE GUEVARRA
SAPO, ELNER II MATOCIÑOS
TONDO, DANIEL OLIVER ORDOÑA
TORRES, MILANNIE VELASCO
TUAZON, ANGELA GABRIELLE JESTRE
TUIBEO, NOREEN VERA FIDEL
VERANO, CHRISTINE SEANA ATIBAGOS
ZUÑIGA, YVES MIEL HUGO

PSHS – CAGAYAN VALLEY CAMPUS
ABELLA, MATT EZEKIEL SALVADOR
AFAN, JAN LOIKI DOBLAS
AGAPITO, AGASSI DWAYNE HERRERA
AGUISANDA, DONITA ROSE PUGAL
AGUSTIN, VICMAR II GONZAGA
ALABADO, CHRISTOPHER LOPEZ
ALLAUIGAN, HAYDEN RICHARD TAQUIQUI
ALVAREZ, MICHAEL RUSSELLE
AMBATALI, CHARLESTON DALE MACUTAY
AYSON, HARRYDON RAMOS
BAGASOL, MARVIN KENNETH GAJUDO
BAÑEZ, KURT JUSTIN ZALAMEA
BANGAYAN, CRISTY CALAGUI
BANGAYAN, JOHN CARLO BALIGOD
BARSABAL, MARC LHAREN MALANA
BAUTISTA, DANIKA PERL MITRA
BELERAN, CHARI VHEE TAYABAN
BELTRAN, JEROME CARY BINAYUG
BERNABE, RENSON PICAZA
BUNUAN, DANIELLE CAYABA
BUSTRIA, JADE NINA RICCI ADUCA
CALIMAG, JOYCE ANNE MANUEL
CANAPI, JAN MICHAEL CADATAL
CASTAÑEDA, INNA ALEXANDRIA ARESTA
CERENADO, JASON FUERTES
CHAVES, MILLIANNE PATRIZ PARINAS
CINCO, ALYANA ROSE MAÑABO
CODAMON, NOBEE MASON
COMBATE, LOUISE NICOLE NARANJILLA
CORDERO, ANGELEIA PAGULAYAN
CUDIA, ANNA DOMINIQUE ADOR DIONICIO
CULIAO, CESAR JR. CABAY
DANGKIW, MAYFOR ATIWAG
DE GUZMAN, KARLA LOIS FELICIANO
DE LEON, LORAINE NARAG
DELA PEÑA, CEAZAR ALEXIS HABILING
DUMAOANG, JOI MIRDANNE RAMIREZ
ESTRELLA, FRANZ ALLEN CONCISO
FELIPE, KIM ARMENIO TIANGCO
FERNANDEZ, NESTOR DANIEL BERMUDA
FIGUEROA, MARY CHRISTENETTE TULAUAN
FONACIER, ANDRE LAUREN URBINA
GAPUZAN, INDIRA MAE DABBAN
GAVINO, LANCE VINCENTE BAUTISTA
GERON, ERWIN GERARD PURUGGANAN
GUEVARRA, BERNADETH ARELLANO
IBRADO, ARNOLD SARMIENTO
JARAZA, CLEVE JEFFERSON BARAL
LABASAN, ELLIJAH SIA
LAZARTE, JEANNE ANGEL SANTIAGO
LUYUN, MARK ANJO DULIN
MALANA, ALLEN REYEL TEAÑO
MANGAOANG, JOHN SALVADOR USTARE
MANONDO, JAN PAUL BUENAVENTURA
MANUEL, ALLAN KENNY MUKAY
MAPANAO, JERUSALEM YBARDO
NARAG, JADZE PRINCETON CASILANA
NAYAL, SARAH MAE ABBAGO
OÑATE, KRIZZIA BOGUEN
ORPIA, EARNEST ALEXIS TAQUEBAN
PACIS, KEVIN KENNETH L CASTRO
PAGUIGAN, IAN BINAG
PASCUA, RIKKI SYCHAR ROSE MALBOG
PASCUAL, CHARLITO JR. CORTADO
PASTORES, NASUDI MATAMMU
PELOVELLO, ELOIZA JANE DELA CRUZ
PELOVELLO, MARVIN VERGARA
QUERUBIN, JEFFREY MARTIN SANTANA
RIGOR, GIRRO JONN OMAÑA
RUBI, KRISTINE PEARL MELCHOR
SABINO, ABIGAIL SADDUL
SAMANTILA, MARIE JENELLE BRUNO
SANTOS, SIENAH DALISAY
SAYO, DAN KARLO DUGAY
SIUAGAN, ANGELICA RODRIGUEZ
SONDAY, CARLO ANGELO AGDUYENG
SORIANO, JESSERENE MANGULAD
SURATOS, CHRISTOPHER JAY PARIÑAS
SY, CHANTAL MARIE SAPADEN
TAGAL, TEOFEE BABARAN
TAGUIAM, MART FRANCIS GARCIA
TAN, AUSTIN RANIEL BAQUIRAN
TIMKANG, ERICK JOHANN TABELINA
TOLENTINO, ROCHELLE MARZAN
TRINIDAD, JOAQUIN MARIANO III E
TULIAO, LARIMAR JASHRY RAMOS
UPANO, JEL BRIDGETTE PONCE
UYTIEPO, NEAL CHRISTOPHER TEMPORAL
VALENZUELA, MONALIZA MINA
VALERO, REY CARLOS CRUZ
WALLIS, JOHNRICK DAGUITAN PADILLA

PSHS – CENTRAL MINDANAO CAMPUS
ABAO, EDMAR PAUL HERADURA
ABARQUEZ, REA MAE L.
ACAYLAR, FRETZ ELUMBARING
ACBAY, FRANC JOSHUA BAYAWA
ADALIM, VINCENT LOIE DESCALLAR
ADRAINCEM, MARY ANGELI REYES
ALDE, KRISTIA JOLINA BUENDIA
ALEJANDRINO, KIMBERLY JHIE ELLO
AMONCIO, NAZI FABRE
ANCOG, MA. MIKHAILA LOGROÑO
ANGAGAO, ALIBAIR BASARA
APOR, ALMIRA DOREEN OMPOD
ATILLO, ANN CARMEL MORDENO
BAANG, BEN HENRY NILLES
BACAS, DANIELLE ANN LICAYAN
BAES, HANNAH ROSE SEARES
BANTUAS, RASHIDA RYHANNAH LUCMAN
BERNAL, KEVIN LLOYD HALLASGO
BORJA, KREZCELY BULANON
BUCOY, MARIA ANGELINA YAP
CABANTAC, CHIARA LOUISE PUSTANES
CAGULA, RON CHRISTIAN TEJANO
CARRILLO, MICHELLE GRACE CABURATAN
CASAS, GESON CLIFF ECHAVEZ
COLUMNAS, EVINCE EARL CARDEÑO
CONDAHAN, CHRISTINE JOY VIVA
CORPUZ, MEGAN ARBITRARIO
CORTES, NATHANIEL GALAY
CUNANAN, CHRISTOPHER SISON
DAGTING, DEAN JEREMY DAPLIN
DE CLARO, PATRICK PADILLA
EGAM, JOANNA MARIE ESCALONA
ELAGOR, MARY ANGELYN ENOY
ELUMBA, RECEL LADISTA
ERENO, ESTHER CARMEN DE GUZMAN
ESTILO, JONATHAN DAVID AYON
FERNANDEZ, IAN ROSS LACTAO
FERNANDEZ, JIEREEN ESPIRITU
GABOR, CHRISUS PAOLO ABENOJA
GENSON, DOREEN ROSALES
HESHAM MOHAMED HAGAG, SARAH REEM DE LEON
INDINO, SUNDAE MAE UCAT
JUSOY, JOHN ROY BALANAY
LABADAN, JOHN RAFAEL CESAR LAGUMBAY
LASQUETY, ASERET ANNE BACATAN
LEE, REJETTE KEZIAH VALENCIA
LLAVAN, JOHN RAY MANIWANG
LOPEZ, NEIL PATRICK LICAYAN
MACAPADO, ALYNA-HANEEFA ACRAMAN
MACOTO, LEAN CARLO QUINALAYO
MADELO, DANNIELLE PAIGE SOLEDAD
MALE, NICOLE ANN RECOPELACION
MONDIA, RENE REY BUCAG
MORALES, RODMAR-LOVE LAPUZ
MORDENO, GIA LACTAO
MORENO, MICHAEL JACOB CRUZ
MORENO, STEFFANY ANN LACIERDA
MORILLA, ARTRIC JEANO VALDE
MOSTRALES, THEA PHILEA INES
MOXCIR, SALMA FERRER
MUGOT, ANDREW JAY NANTES
NGO, FRANCES UCAB
ONG, ROMMEL REGOR DIAZ
OPAMEN, NADJEL LAO
OPENIANO, POL JED EYA
PAASA, MARIE ANJANETTE BALANAY
PACAMALAN, NIÑA KIRSTIN LADRA
PALER, EDWARD CHRISTOPHER LAUSA
PELONIO, JEANNIE LOVE NABO
PEPITO, RONNA MAE ORNOPIA
POSTRANO, JOHN PAUL SUMAOY
PRAYLES, CHERRYL ARINGO
PULMONES, SZARLYNE JANE SARENAS
RAGASA, JOHN EDGAR REAMBONANZA
RODRIGUEZ, DIANE PACULABA
RUIZ, ROSS JERVIN LORENZ BATAY
SABENECIO, ZAMINA CANJA
SACALA, GOMER JR. PASCO
SANIEL, KATHRINE LORENZENA NOBLE
SIPIN, DENNIS ALFONSO MARZO
TABITA, CHRISTIANNE ALEXIS GABUTAN
TAN, AUGUSTINE MARTIN K.
TAN, JEAN ELLEN TIU
TAN, NARVIN CLYD DACUT
TIRO, SHASTA GRACE DIAO
TORRES, HARRIS KENN CRISOLOGO
UY, FARRAH FLORENDA LAO
YACAPIN, JONATHAN JOHN
YBAÑEZ, CROMWELL GUIO GUIO
YU, MICHAEL JOHN LUY
ZERNA, NATHAN CARRYL JAN CANUBIDA

PSHS – CENTRAL VISAYAS CAMPUS
ABREA, AKIA YNNA CENIZA
ACEBEDO, DAVE ANTHONY ORDOÑA
ALEGRE, ABIGAIL ESTARON
ALOSBAÑOS, MARIE EMELIE YABO
AMETIN, JANINE TUBIANO
ASCAÑO, ALYSSA LOUIZE BALAGOT
ASOK, MARA KATRINA TANCIO
AYOP, CHRISMARIE GRACE ANTIGO
BALANE, ARNELLE CALAPE
BARIMBAO, REINA STELLA MAG-ASO
BARNIDO, CIRESSE AVA S
BARRAMEDA, DANA NATASHA MAHINAY
BENITEZ, DANA LEE MACASAET
BLANCO, CLYDE SANDOT
CABILLO, MARK JOSEPH DEGAMO
CALINGACION, KEVIN ELTAGUNDE
CAMPO, ZION DUNGOG
CAPILITAN, JOHN LORD LELIS
CHAVEZ, WILFREDO JR. LOTHO
CUIZON, GIZEL MARIE DECASA
DAGMANG, ALDRIN JUDE ALBURA
DE VERA, EUNICE TENGCO
ERAZO, CATHERINE MAY ESTIMAR
ESTROPE, FRANCIS CRAIG VILLEGAS
FIDELLAGA, DUSTIN ANDREW DE LEON
FLORES, IAN FREDERICK LEAL
GAMIL, HANNAH BELLA GUYANO
GEPTE, OSWALD JEZOAR BELACA-OL
GILLESANIA, KEN DAINIEL REYES
GOMEZ, DAVID GUIANG
GONZAGA, MARK DANIEL T
HOMEZ, CARMELLE LORENZ DELFIN
INGKING, AL OSIRIS FERNANDEZ
LABIAN, PAULINKO KIEL BERNADIT
LACSON, JOSE CARLOS EDUARDO MONTINOLA
LAROT, ARCHIEL TSE
LAVADOR, JOSE REY LAURITO
LEGASPI, JULIENNE BLAISE CABALLERO
LOZADA, JAZEL ALEN MAYPA
LUGNASIN, MA. SALVE MAE BOBARES
MAGNAYE, JIMAE FAITH BUSTOS
MANIQUE, MYLA MAGALINAO
MANIWANG, MA. AIZA COMA
MENDOZA, WILLIAM JR. GAÑA
MOLION, MICHAEL STEVEN T
MUTUC, KIE DUAVIS
ONG, PATRICIA KAROL AQUINO
PADILLA, JOANNE LESLEY CALIMPON
PALEN, TREXY REICH SERENIO
PALER, CHANTAL SUE PADERANGA
PELLEJO, HANNAH MARQUIALA
PEÑA, KATHLYNNE HOPE FLORES
PUMARES, KURT JAN AGOT
QUILO, BARBARAH JEAN HERMOSO
RACHO, TIMOTHY CARLO ALVAREZ
RAFAEL, JANINE BIANCA MARIE MELGAR
RESMEROS, EMERALD JAMES MANTUA
RICO, BERT JOSEPH ROA
RIVERA, JONHREY MACION
SALINO, IAN VINCE DILAO
SALVAÑA, CHRISTIAN ACURAM
SASTRILLO, JOMAR ANTHONY VICHER
SENERES, JENN JASMIN AGUILAR
SIM, ROBERT MARTIN CARIN
SISON, THEA JADE ESPADA
SY, CYRONE GOTLADERA
TAMAYO, CYNTHIA LOU BUCOG
TAMPOS, JAN AUBREY TOMADA
TAN, CLARISSE NICOLE DOROMAL
TOLEDO, MARY RICHABELLE PANTUJAN
UNDALOC, JOHN CARLO PEREZ
VILLEJO, ALMAR JUNIO
VILLON, JAY ALLEN BAJAR

PSHS – EASTERN VISAYAS CAMPUS
ADOVE, BERNADETH IGNACIO
ALEGRE, EDGARDO JR. ASID
ANASARIAS, MARIVIC ELARDO
ANDRADE, EMILY SOYOSA
ARCENAL, REGINE FLORES
ASEO, KARLA MAY TENEBROSO
AUSA, MARIANNE SO
BIONG, MARK MONESS PETILLA
BITERBO, KELLY HELENA
CABELLO, QUENEE JOYCE LAGADO
CABERO, JERIC DEMETRIAL
CADAVIS, ANDREW JR. C
CAVITE, THEO VICTOR ASIS
CEBLANO, ROMMEL RODRIGO DE PADUA
CELLONA, KARINA HERMALOU BAGAS
CINCO, JOSE MARIA ANTONIO AGUIRRE
COLINARES, ZACHARY NICOLAS
COLLANDER, BROR RAGNAR LORENZO RODRIGUEZ
CU, MARIA VICTORIA VALENZONA
DANAO, BENGIELYN MAE A.
DARIA, ALLAN BAJON
DE GUZMAN, JEANNE RANNY BRIONES
DE LOYOLA, DOMINIQUE DENSON DE VERA
DELA CRUZ, JANINE MARRIAH GAYOSA
DELA PEÑA, MARJOLAINE LOYOLA
DIAZ, DULCE ANNE CAYANES
DOLLETE, WINSTON AYLES
DUROY, GERLHYNNE PANGANORON
ESBER, NEIL CLARK PEREZ
FALCULAN, RALPH SABINADA
FAMADOR, QUEENIE AUDRIANNE LEGO
FUENTEBELLA, ALYSSA AQUINO
FUENTEBELLA, DANISA MAY COLINARES
GARRIDO, JOHN RAFAEL ARINTO
GEONZON, RAIZO ABE MACAYAN
GONIA, JOHN PAUL DAWN DENZON
GUALBERTO, MAY RAAGAS
GUARTE, JANINA MENDOZA
GUINO, DEXTER MERRO
JACELA, ANGELICA COCHICO
LELINA, FRANCHESKA MARIE U
LIM, JOY SOLIVA
MACANIP, ALMALYN VALERIANO
MADRIAGA, JOSHUA LACANDAZO
MADRIAGA, REBECCA MAE MISAGAL
MARGALLO, EMILY JOYCE MAGLINTE
MASAYON, MC JIM THADDEUS ATERRADO
MERCADO, JESSAMAY COLANTA
MONTALLANA, ARANTXA DANIELLE SUGALAN
NAVARRO, NIKKARRIETTA DEJENO
OQUIÑO, ICHIRO LONGASA
PABELLO, KIMBERLY TIU
PADOC, ARJEL JOHN CABUNIGAN
PAET, MONIQUE MAE ANNE BILARDO
PERALTA, JEAN GRACE TABAO
PUGUON, FORTER JR. GOLTIAO
QUEJADA, KIFNER REX MAGALLANES
RAMOS, JACKIE LOU CHUA
ROA, JANE CARA MAE NAPOLES
ROLLODA, DOMINIC LAZAR
ROSALES, EDGARDO BATINGAL
ROSALES, LISSA FRANCES MAGLANA
SALVAÑA, NHIEL JEFF PEROCHO
SANTIAGO, JOSHUA JESLI DUBLADO
SENADO, JOHN JOSEPH PAZ
TAGRA, MINE CLARIDAD
TANSINGCO, NIKA QUINTE
TELIMBAN, ANTONIO JR. SORILA
TOLENTINO, CHELSEA REYNA VICTORIOSO
UY, SHYEDELLE JOHANZE GULA
VERUNQUE, CESAR ROSEL

PSHS – ILOCOS REGION CAMPUS
ALCAIN, DRENFURT MAGANTE
ARAÑA, ASHLEY MANAOIS
AURELIO, GIAN CARLO BALANZA
AUSTRIA, VIKTOR ELIJAH PATACSIL
BALTAZAR, BRITT MEXZEE SORIANO
BALUTOC, IRIS PATRISHA CRUZ
BAÑAGALE, JASHLINE ANN ACLAN
BANGSAL, KAREN LOUISE TORRES
BAUCAS, MARC JAYSON JUAN
BAUTISTA, HOPE LANIKA MANALO
BENIGNO, MEGAN PASCUA
BERNABE, LATIFA CLARE VALMONTE
BERNABE, NEMUEL ANGELO L
BIGAY, KYRSTEN JANNAE JIMENEZ
BOCOBOC, RACHELLE JUSON
BONDAD, RIA NICOLE DULAYCAN
BORROMEO, EMMANUEL JOHN AURELIO
BUCAO, DANE SAMUEL NAANEP
CABATU, RENALIE ZENINE LLANES
CABREROS, CROMWELL PAOLO CANIEZO
CALIWAG, FIDES MYLES CARREON
CARAS, WESLEY ANDREW CASTAÑEDA
CARIÑO, KATRINA CABRAL
COLCOL, DIANE BONDOC
CRUZ, MARY ANGELENE MONTERO
CULING, MARIA DOMINIQUE LANTICAN
DANIEL, CHRISTIAN DALE WANAWAN
DE VERA, MICOLE VINCENT DICHAVES
DOFELIZ, JONI LADEA
DY, SHENZHEN SHEENA RAZON
ESTRADA, ANNE GABRIELLE ANGUSTIA
FERMIN, RALPH MAJED KEENE ROMAS
GABALDON, REJY MAE BRAVO
GOMEZ, MICHAEL ANGELO MACEDA
GUILLERMO, ANJO NEIL DURAN
GUILLERMO, JULIUS MICHAEL LLAGAS
HIPOL, MIAN BERNARDINE GUALBERTO
IRAPTA, PAULA NAOMI SACRO
ITLIONG, DAREL ROYSE CASTILLO
JAVIER, HUMILITY MEDIOS
KINOMES, MARK ANTHONY DOMILIES
LEE, JETHRO TOLEDO
LLAMAS, LORENZO JR. CALPOTURA
LOPEZ, RIO ISABEL LORENZO
LUMAGUE, JERONIMO FLORES
LUZADAS, ERIKA NICHOLE LUMIBAO
MASALUNGA, MARNEL BHENSON MALASIG
MEDINA, AKIRA ISAAK
MINA, SHIENA MARIE UBALDO
NACAR, DAVID CHRISTY ANN TINAO
NAZARRO, MIRASOL OLPINDO
ORDOÑEZ, ELYKA MAE LOPEZ
PALADO, DEMI AUSTIN VALLE
PASCUAL, BRYAN RUDOLPH SORIANO
PEDRACIO, MIKHAIL KRISTOFF ANDRES
POBLETE, KEN GALERA
QUITORIANO, JOHN PAULO S.
RABANG, SHAIRA IGNACIO
RASCO, NESTOR POL PADULIP
REYES, RIO FATIMA MARTINEZ
REYES, ROZELLE TRIXIE
RIVERA, DARIEN JOHN QUERIDO
ROMA, FERLIE MAY PACCARANGAN
SABLAY, MICHAEL ABRAHAM BASUIL
SALES, R. MARTIN ALFONSO RAMOS
SANCHEZ, NICOLE ANN DE GUZMAN
SANDOVAL, PAOLO MARCHELO ROYECA
SERAFICA, ALVIN JOHN SAMSON
SOQUILA, ANGELICA LYN RODRIGUEZ
TAULI, JOSEFA ISABEL CARIÑO
TAWALI, PEARLY JOYCE MAURICIO
VICENTE, KAZANDRA CATINDOY
VILLENA, CHARL IRISH GANIRON
VOCAL, PAUL GERSON HIDALGO
YANG-ED, PAUL CHRISTIAN BALASTA
YAP, PATRICIA DANIELLE DE GUZMAN
YNZON, CHRISTINE DANIELLE DE GUZMAN

PSHS – SOUTHERN MINDANAO CAMPUS
ALLAWAN, NICHOL IVAN GIGUIENTO
ARAGONCILLO, CARL JASON CAIN
ARNEJO, EIRENE AGUSTIN BARIMBAO
BALATERO, MARY JANE LUBRINO
BANGAYAN, CHRISTOPHER JON JUAN-SING
BARLIS, JOHANNES ZYREL MANULAT
BAYOTAS, MAO TZE MATILLANO
BELOTINDOS, DIANNE CAMILLE BULAONG
BENDIGO, INNA ISABELA DUBOULAY
BOLINGOT, HAROLD JAY MEDIDA
BRION, KEANO MIGUEL SOLOMERO
BUCANEG, ART PHILIPPE PEREZ
CAM, MOSES SHOON
CAMPOSANO, JESSA MAE TEJEDOR
CANDIDO, CHRISTIAN GUMBAO
CATAPANG, ANGELO NIKKO BARABONA
CAUILAN, GILBERT JR. SIAYNGCO
CAYAMANDA, CARLO JOHN GONZALES
CHUEH, SAMUEL MA
CLARITO, BEA BORDA
DELA CRUZ, MARK ARTHUR TULIO
DUMANDAN, JANEO MAY TAJORA
ECHEVARRIA, MAX ANGELO TUBILAN
ENRIQUEZ, JOVAN KIETH DUMLAO
ESCANDOR, JURIS VITTORIO ESPADERO
ESTOESTA, KRIS ANNE TABUA
ESTRIBILLO, ABBIE GLENN MONTECALVO
FURIA, JULIET CZARINA VILLAMOR
GONZAGA, MHIZELIE JAVE FORROSUELO
GUAN HING, KEN ABALOS
HANGAD, EUNICE MARTINEZ
HO, TANYA ANDREA MORALES
JAMISOLA, ROVELYN MAE FERNANDO
JAYNO, ALEXANDER FAYE PANGILINAN
JUBILO, KAROL GUISEPPE ABELLANIDA
KING, NATHALIE VANYA ONG
LAO, BEATRIZ ANN CHUA
LINGAYA, GLENY MHAE TAGHOY
LOPEZ, ANA DOMINIC ARCAMO
LUMAYAG, JOHN HENRY CAÑETE
MEDEL, ANJELO LOUIE BINCE
MICLAT, MIKOEL AUGUSTO REYES
MIRABUENO, CLARA MARIE KHO
NOVO, ACE DALISAY
NUÑEZ, MARK IANNE LEDESMA
OJEDA, INNA PATRICIA MONTESCLAROS
ORTIZ, SHERYLYN FENN FORMACION
PARREÑAS, CZARINA BIANCA BALDONADO
PAZ, MEURISSE TRINA A. TE
PEPITO, VEINCENT CHRISTIAN FILIPINO
PEREZ, ARMANDO JR. YAOYAO
RENDON, RHOSHELA VI CONEJOS
SACDALAN, PAMELA ANGELA SINSUAT
SALISE, JOEN MARYO MAHINAY
SALVADOR, ALFONSO VITTORIO CABRERA
SAM, GIAN KARLO LUMANLAN
SAMBO, JENELLE GUILLERMO
SATORRE, JAMES CARL MONTEJO
SERQUIÑA, JC WALDO JAPOS
SIAO, TAGGART GODINEZ
SUBANG, LAVI CORNEL ATIENZA
SUFICIENCIA, MA. ENA LAMBOSO
SY, MARIAN ROSE SALMON
TAN, JUSTINE HYACINTH SAQUILABON
TAN, STEVEN CUAPOCO TAN
TE, ADRIEL VINCENT RAÑAGA
TEMEW, KELLY CUA
UY, CHARLES JOHN TALIP
UY, THOMAS MARLO ZAPANTA
VENERACION, KEENAN MATTHEW PORRAS
YENCO, GILDRIC THEODORE NGO
ZABATE, ADRIENNE MAE BARING

PSHS – WESTERN VISAYAS CAMPUS
ABORKA, MA. AYANNE BALDEVIA
ABUEL, JOSHUA NEAL HEBRON
AGUILAR, SUSHMITA JARA
ALABADO, JOHN VINCENT QUIMPANG
ALBA, GILBERT GABRIEL PORRAS
ALCANZO, NICOLA JANE ABELLO
AMORES, VINCENT GUILLER GERSALLA
ANABO, SRI SALAZAR
APOLONIO, JAMIE JANE FAJICULAY
APORTADERA, EMMA TERESA CARMELA LOPEZ
ARENAS, JOSEPH BENEDICT BLANCAFLOR
ASESOR, THEA MARIE JARANA
BAGONOC, DEREK JOHN VASQUEZ
BARILEA, JOHN DAVE ARROYO
BAS, SEAN CLERRY MACASIANO
BERMEJO, CHRISTIAN YUSON
BULQUERIN, NICOLA JESSA ONG
CABRILLOS, NICKCY DULIA ROSE SANTILLAN
CAIGOY, MARY JOHNALYNN SILAYA
CELENDRO, ANNE LIZZETTE RAMAS
CONTRERAS, ANDREA ISABEL TAN
CORDERO, JOHN ALBERT CORDOVA
CRISOSTOMO, JUDE ANTHONY SALAYA
CRUZ, DON THEON CRUZ
DAVILA, MA. CONCEPCION EMPIO
DE LA CRUZ, PAOLO MARTIN DECENA
DE LEON, NATHALEA VENTURA
DELOS REYES, JOHN HARVIE ODANGO
DIÑO, JOHN ROMEO DOMINICK MARTINEZ
DOLOROSA, RONEL JASON VILLASANA
ENANO, GLENN PATRICK BUENAFLOR
ERVITE, ANEL JOHN C. ETABAG
GALINDO, KIM NORLEAN ESPEJO
GARCIA, JOSEPH JEFFREY ALBAY
GASATAYA, CHARISSE ANN GUIRGEN
GASCON, JANINE CAMELLE TAM
GAYONOCHE, OLIVER JOHN AJ DULAY
IP, KEVIN ONG
ISON, ALDRIN ROLF SAN PEDRO
JUANICO, CLAREEN MAE TARDAGUELA
JUDICPA, MIA ANGELA NUÑEZA
LEDDA, WENDY EYAN
LEQUISIA, JOHN RUSSELL MANLIQUEZ
LICERIO, JAYSON AUDREY PAALAN
LINAS, PEARL JOY CONCEPCION
LLADONET, RENZIL ROCO
LUTERO, LEO AGUSTIN II SARRIA
MANZANILLO, JUAN MIGUEL BOMBAES
MARCELINO, FAITH ITURRALDE
MERISCO, NEIL MAGANTO
MIRAFLORES, IAN ANINZO
MOLINA, JOHANN POPE MOLANIDA
NARANJO, KRIEVSON JB ABELENDE
OCAÑA, ROEZEL MARI ZERRUDO
ONG, ALYANNA SABRINA KING
PANELO, PHILIPP JUDE DEMINGOY
PAULMA, RACHEL ANGEL MAGBANUA
PERUCHO, GREENY JOY ALLEGO
PONGAN, DANA ANGELU CHAN
QUEZON, PAOLO SEVA
RAGAS, KARL MAVERICK CRUZ
RAGAS, RUZZEL DIZON
RAPADAS, PETER DOMINIQUE OPAO
REY, MA. FLORA NIÑA REMANESES
REYNOSO, ANN MARIELLE QUANICO
SALAZAR, RONICA GRACIELLA SOLIDUM
SAMONTINA, RAE ERICA DUMOL
SANTOCILDES, CAMILLE SEGUMALIAN
SAUZA, NADYA PATRICIA ELA
SORIANO, LEO J TIONKO
SUPERIORIDAD, ELTON ALBANCIA
TALAPIAN, FRANCIS GERARD APOSTOL
TANEDO, JUNE ELLE ESTANTE
TOLEDO, IVAN LOUIS MEDIODIA
URETA, PAUL MARTIN PELAYO
VASQUEZ, VINCENT OÑATE
VEGA, ANNA LARISA VIKTORIA UMALI
VELOZ, RAYMUND CURIOSO
VIEJA, ROSELEN ANN SOURIBIO
VILORIA, MATTHEW DAVID ABRERA
YUNQUE, VANESSA AURA TERRITORIO
ZOLUAGA, JAN PARVIN BAT-OG

PANFEI to conduct 2007 national summit on alternative learning system

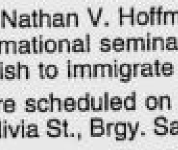
THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION of the Nonformal Education Incorporated [PANFEI] will conduct the 1st National Summit on Alternative Learning System [ALS] at the Teachers' Camp, Baguio City on March 6-8, with the theme "ALS The Key to Attaining Education for All" as per DepED Memorandum no. 19, s. 2007. This will be hosted by the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR).

Open to all stakeholders from the Department of Education and the academe, NGOs. GOs, LGUS, church-based and private organizations, the summit will enable the participants to gain a better understanding of the different ALS programs/projects as these relate to Education for All [EFA] goals and objectives. Participants win also be given opportunities to clarify issues and concerns and to give recommendations to improve policy directions for ALS. Hopefully this summit can serve as a strong advocacy and social mobilization strategy for the promotion and sustainability of ALS.

Notable speakers like Dr. Erlinda C. Peñanco. Executive Director, SEAMEO—INNOTECH, Philippines; Dr Hameed A. Hakeem, Adviser and Coordinator, APPEAL, Asia Pacific Bureau for Education UNESCO Bangkok, Dr. Carol Añonuevo, Deputy Director, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, UNESCO Germany and Honorable Mayor Gregorio Facula of Dujali, Davao del Norte to name a few will expound on topics relevant to the theme. Dr. Carolina S. Guerero Director IV, DepED BALS will deliver the welcome remarks while Dr. Wilma L. Labrador, Undersecretary for Programs ad Projects of DepED will have the inaugural address. Mr. Manuel Pacquiao, International Boxing Champion and ALS Ambassador will deliver the inspirational message.

A registration fee of six thousand pesos (P6,000) will be charged each participant to cover expenses for board and lodging, transportation, registration handouts kits, supplies and materials. For more info, please contact Dr. Carag at 6355193 (Luzon), Ms Corazon Polohan at (033) 3375541 (Visayas) and Dr. Amor Mariano at (08822) 725716 (Mindanao).

NURSES, STUDENT NURSES, PTs and STUDENT PTs



www.usavisalawoffice.com

Immigration Attorney Nathan V. Hoffman will come to Manila to conduct informational seminars for RNs & PTs who wish to immigrate to USA.

Seminars are scheduled on March 6, 7, 8 at 2786 Unit 10-Bolivia St., Brgy. San Isidro, Makati City.

For inquiries please call 8162030/ 8150066

We are not a Recruitment Agency

SPECIAL DISCOUNT SALE

HOUSES, BUILDINGS & LOTS ON CASH OR INSTALLMENT FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

PASIG

Two- Storey Res. House
LA: 120 sq.m. FA: 126.70 sq.m.
Living/dining area; 1 T&B; 2 BR; kitchen; carport
No.03 Interior, Elizco Road,
Brgy.Kalawaan
P 1,620,000.00

Residential Condominium Unit
FA: 198.75 sq.m.
Office; dining room; kitchen;
3 BR; 4 T&B; small balcony; maid's quarters;
1 parking slot
Unit NE-R-62, 6th Floor,
Gold Loop Towers
Condominium Building,
No.07 Amber Ave., Ortigas Complex
P 6,300,000.00

Office Condominium Unit
FA: 69.06 sq.m.
With 1 T&B
Unit 503 5th Floor, One
Magnificent Mile Condominium
Building, San Miguel Avenue,
Ortigas Center
P 2,430,000.00

Residential Condominium Unit
FA: 198.75 sq.m.
Living/dining rooms; kitchen;
3 BR; 4 T&B; small balcony; maid's quarters;
1 parking slot
Unit NE-R-61, 6th Floor,
Gold Loop Towers
Condominium Building,
No.07 Amber Ave., Ortigas Complex
P 6,300,000.00

VALENZUELA

Industrial Lot
LA: 4,391 sq.m.
No.12 IRC Compound Road,
Canumay
P 20,700,000.00

Two- Storey Res. House
LA: 240 sq.m. FA: 250 sq.m.
4 BR; 3 T&B; maid's quarters
No.019 Taruk St., Oreta Subd., Malinta
P 1,980,000.00

LAS PIÑAS

One- Storey Res. House
LA: 628 sq.m. FA: 545 sq.m.
2 living rooms; 1 game room; 1 mini bar;
2 dining; 1 kitchen; 3 BR; 3-car garage
No.12 Mallaca St., BF Homes
International (BFTHAI), Brgy.
International Village
P 5,850,000.00

LAS PIÑAS

Residential Lot
LA: 149 sq.m.
CRM Avenue, BF Almanza
P 975,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 289 sq.m.
CRM Avenue, BF Almanza
P 1,878,500.00

Residential Lot
LA: 419 sq.m.
CRM Avenue, BF Almanza
P 2,723,500.00

PASAY

Three-Storey Commercial/
Residential Building
LA: 200 sq.m. FA: 550 sq.m.
2 BR; living room; dining room; kitchen; T&B;
swimming pool
No.524 T. Inocencio Street,
San Roque District
P7,472,520.00

MUNTINLUPA

One- Storey Res. House
LA: 350 sq.m. FA: 188 sq.m.
2 BR; 3 T&B; terrace; office;
covered garage
No.09 Lumbang St., Tierra Nueva
Village, Alabang
P 8,100,000.00

One- Storey Res. House
LA: 300 sq.m.
No.13 Soliven-Alvendia Ave.,
South Greenheights Subd.
P 1,755,000.00

Two- Storey Res. House
LA: 590 sq.m. FA: 780 sq.m.
5 BR w/ T&B; jacuzzi; stock room;
maid's quarters; carport
No.16 Balisin St., Tierra Nueva
Village, Alabang
P 16,200,000.00

One- Storey Res. House With Attic
LA: 500 sq.m. FA: 294 sq.m.
3 living rooms; 2 dinings;
2 kitchens; 4 BR; 3 T&B; maid's
& driver's quarters; laundry area; garage
No.08 St. Thomas Street,
San Jose Subd., Alabang-
Zapote Road, Alabang
P 4,680,000.00

MANILA

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 108.64 sq.m.
3 BR; 3 T&B; living-dining area;
kitchen; maid's room; patio
Unit 411, 4th Floor, Building D,
Landwealth Metrohomes,
No.1995 Juan Luna St., Pritil, Tondo
P 2,950,000.00

Residential Condo Units
FA: 584.81 sq.m.
5 BR; 5 T&B; 2 living rooms; office;
dining room; kitchen; 3 storage;
8 balconies ; 1 parking slot
Units 22 E, F & G, 22/F Legaspi
Towers 300,
No.2600 Roxas Blvd. corner
Vito Cruz, Malate
P50,000.00/ sq.m.

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 282 sq.m.
3 BR; 3 T&B; maid's room
Unit 1801 (Penthouse),
Marbella II Manila Condominium,
No 2071 Roxas Blvd., Malate
P55,000.00/ sq.m.

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 290 sq.m.
2 BR; 3 T&B; maid's room
Unit 1802 (Penthouse),
Marbella II Manila Condominium,
No 2071 Roxas Blvd., Malate
P55,000.00/ sq.m.

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 124.32 sq.m.
Living/dining area; 2 BR; 2 T&B; kitchen;
maid's quarters; laundry area; patio
Unit 408, 4th Floor, Binondo Plaza,
Alvarado St., Binondo
P 4,500,000.00

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 159.28 sq.m.
3 BR; 3 T&B; maid's quarters;
living room; dining room; kitchen;
utility service area
Unit 1401, 14th Floor,
Stanford Tower Condominium,
M.H.del Pilar Street, Malate
P 6,500,000.00

Residential Suite
FA: 145 sq.m.
26-A, 26/F Marina Square,
M.H. del Pilar corner
Pedro Gil Sts., Malate
P 9,000,000.00

Residential Suite
FA: 68 sq.m.
26-B, 26/F Marina Square,
M.H. del Pilar corner
Pedro Gil Sts., Malate
P 4,500,000.00

4 Two-Storey Townhouse Units
From LA: 61.90 sq.m. to 126.60 sq.m.
From FA: 100 sq.m. to 185 sq.m.
2 BR; 3 T&B; kitchen
living room; carport
No.948 Aliw-iw St. cor.
Saluysoy St., Morning Side Terrace,
Sta. Mesa
P 2,966,400.00 to P 5,278,500.00

Two-Storey Townhouse Unit
LA: 277.50 sq.m. FA: 400 sq.m.
4 BR; 4 T&B; 2 dining rooms;
maid's quarters; 2 kitchens; carport
No.948 Aliw-iw St. cor.
Saluysoy St., Morning Side Terrace,
Sta. Mesa
P 6,885,000.00

7 Units Six-Storey Commercial Bldg.
LA: 43 sq.m. to 235 sq.m.
FA: 256 sq.m. to 1,400 sq.m.
Units 1-B-2-A to 1-B-2-G,
Plaza Lacson, Sta Cruz

MALABON

Two- Storey Res. House
LA: 705 sq.m. FA: 700 sq.m.
7 BR; 4 T&B; servant's quarters
No.14 M.H. del Pilar Street,
San Vicente Village, Maysilo
P 4,500,000.00

CALOOCAN

Residential Lot
LA: 312.50 sq.m.
Lot 7 Blk 6 Road Lot 5,
Sacred Heart Village, Phase VI-B,
Novaliches
P 1,350,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 312.50 sq.m.
Lot 9 Blk 6 Road Lot 5,
Sacred Heart Village, Phase VI-B,
Novaliches
P 1,350,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 312.50 sq.m.
Lot 5 Blk 6 Road Lot 5,
Sacred Heart Village, Phase VI-B,
Novaliches
P 1,350,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 312.50 sq.m.
Lot 11 Blk 6 Road Lot 5,
Sacred Heart Village, Phase VI-B,
Novaliches
P 1,350,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 312.50 sq.m.
Lot 13 Blk 6 Road Lot 5,
Sacred Heart Village, Phase VI-B,
Novaliches
P 1,350,000.00

Commercial Lot
LA: 279.60 sq.m.
Samson Road, Caloocan City
(near Bonifacio Monument)
P 13,500,000.00

PARAÑAQUE

Marina Lots (Asiaworld)
LA: 7,000 sq.m. to 29,000 sq.m.
Tambo
P 25,000.00/ sq.m.

Three- Storey Res. House
LA: 198 sq.m. FA: 630 sq.m.
3 BR; 6 T&B; 2 kitchens;
2 balconies; maid's quarters
No.2538 Lt. Garcia St., Baclaran
P 7,650,000.00

Three- Storey Res. Mansion
LA: 1,822 sq.m. FA: 2,311 sq.m.
8 BR; 9 T&B; driver's & maid's quarters;
other rooms; swimming pool; balcony etc.
No.27 Topaz Street,
Parañaque Greenheights Subd.
P 25,200,000.00

Two-Storey Res. House
LA: 150 sq.m. FA: 84.50 sq.m.
Living/dining area; 3 BR;
2 T&B; kitchen
No.942 Pili Road, Levitown Subd.,
Phase 9, Better Living Subd.,
Bgy. Don Bosco
P 2,500,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 365 sq.m.
Lot 5 Blk 14 Aldrin Street,
Moonwalk Village, Phase I,
Bgy.Moonwalk (Bgy. Ibayo)
P 1,800,000.00

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 331.35 sq.m.
4 BR; 1 parking slot
Unit 2B, Cleveland Tower,
Asiaworld Complex, Tambo
P 15,957,180.00

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 341.59 sq.m.
4 BR; 1 parking slot
Unit 2C, Cleveland Tower,
Asiaworld Complex, Tambo
P 16,436,412.00

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 360.71 sq.m.
4 BR; 1 parking slot
Unit 3B, Cleveland Tower,
Asiaworld Complex, Tambo
P 17,655,867.00

MAKATI

Lot with Warehouse
LA: 5,171 sq.m. FA: 1,540 sq.m.
Pasong Tamo St. between Pasay Road
& EDSA
P 85,000.00/ sq.m.

Residential Lot
LA: 393 sq.m.
No.1102 J.P. Rizal Street,
Guadalupe Viejo
P 12,600,000.00

CAINTA, RIZAL

One- Storey Res. House
LA: 325 sq.m. FA: 290 sq.m.
5 BR; 5 T&B; 2 kitchens; covered
garage; terrace
No.07 Doña Juliana St., Phase II,
Filinvest Homes East
P 3,600,000.00

Two- Storey Res. House
LA: 141 sq.m. FA: 195 sq.m.
3 BR; 2 T&B; 2 kitchens; storage room;
maid's quarters; garage
No.58-A Tulip Street,
Greenwoods Exec. Village,
Phase II, Brgy. San Andres,
P 4,500,000.00

BARAS, RIZAL

Residential Lot
LA: 4,502 sq.m.
Brgy. Evangelista, Baras
P 2,880,000.00

SAN MATEO, RIZAL

Residential Lots
LA: 336/ 240/ 258 sq.m.
Lot 4 Blk 4 Valley View Drive,
Monterey Hills Subd.
P 1,530,000.00

ANTIPOLO, RIZAL

Residential Lots
LA: 850 sq.m.
Lot Nos.13 & 14 Blk 12,
4th Street, Cavaliers Village,
Sumulong Highway, Bgy. Sta. Cruz
P2,000,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 828 sq.m.
Lot 28 Blk 1 Saddle Square St.,
Ponderosa Heights
P 1,125,000.00

One- Storey Res. House
LA: 1,582 sq.m. FA: 140 sq.m.
2 BR; dining/kitchen; 2 T&B
Lot 6-B Bgy. Road,
Grand Heights Subd.,
Circumferential Road,
Bgy. San Roque, Malinta
P 4,500,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 566 sq.m.
Lot 10 Blk 5, Road Lot 5,
Antipolo Greenheights Subd.,
Taktak Road, Bgy. Sta. Cruz
P 750,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 592 sq.m.
Lot 7 Blk 5, Road Lot 5,
Antipolo Greenheights Subd.,
Taktak Road, Bgy. Sta. Cruz
P 1,500,000.00

MARIKINA

Lot with Warehouse
LA: 41,039 sq.m.
Along Cepeda Street
P 10,500.00/ sq.m.

QUEZON CITY

One- Storey Res. House
LA: 360 sq.m. FA: 132 sq.m.
2 BR; 2 T&B
Lot 5 Blk 18 Molave St. cor.
Mahogany St., Greenfields I
Subd., Novaliches
P 4,050,000.00

Vacant Lot
LA: 1,415 sq.m.
No.32 Marinduque Street,
San Francisco del Monte
P15,930,000.00

Three- Storey Res./
Office/Warehouse Bldg.
LA:655 sq.m. FA:1,364.85 sq.m.
Office; dining area; kitchen; living room;
6 T&B; 4 BR; family room; stock room;
sewing area; hallway
(Unnumbered) Aramis Street,
Villa Corina Subdivision,
Brgy. Pasong Tamo,
Tandang Sora
P 13,500,000.00

One- Storey w/ Mezzanine
Factory Building
LA: 600 sq.m. FA: 790 sq.m.
Office; 2 T&B; stock rooms; employee's
quarters,,working area
No.17 Zorra Street, Bgy. Paltok,
San Francisco del Monte
P 10,800,000.00

Two- Storey Res. House
LA: 654.70 sq.m. FA: 556 sq.m.
3 BR w/ T&B; maid's quarters; terrace;
carport; swimming pool
No.06 Hillside Loop Street,
Blue Ridge A Subd.
P 11,250,000.00

Two-Storey Res. House
LA: 300 sq.m. FA: 388 sq.m.
3 BR; 6 T&B; living/dining area;
den/office room; main & auxiliary kitchen;
maid's & driver's quarters;
laundry area; 2-car garage
No.36 Poseidon Street, Acropolis Subd.,
Eulogio Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Murphy
P 16,200,000.00

Two- Storey Res. House
LA: 360 sq.m. FA: 457.83 sq.m.
6 BR; game room; servant's quarters;
covered garage; music room; library;
swimming pool
No.55 Sampaguita Ave., Mapayapa
Village II, Diliman
P 7,020,000.00

PROVINCES:

BULACAN

Two- Storey Res. House With Attic
LA: 882 sq.m. FA: 425 sq.m.
Living/dining area; office;
2 kitchens; 4 BR; 3 T&B; terrace;
storage room; garage
(Unnumbered)Doña Josefina Road,
Doña Josefina Subd., Malhakan
Nat'l. Road, Brgy. Malhakan,
Meycauayan
P 6,300,000.00

Residential Lots
LA: 792 sq.m. to 51,103 sq.m.
Brgy. Minuyan,
San Jose del Monte
P 500.00/sq.m.

3 Bldgs.
LA: 1,035 sq.m.
(2) 2-storey & (1) 1-storey
Tierra Dayao Subd., Sta. Cruz,
Guiguinto
P 7,650,000.00

Residential Lots
LA: 1,689 sq.m.
(Unnumbered) Dies/ Estranio St.,
Interior, Brgy. Bayugo,
Meycauayan
P 3,150,000.00

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

Vacant Lot
LA: 29,932 sq.m.
(Unnumbered) Interior,
Bgy San Roque II, San Jose
P19,045,732.00

TAGAYTAY

45 Vacant Res. Lots
LA: 910 sq.m. to 2,000 sq.m.
Rodeo Countryside Estate Subd.,
Brgy.Esperanza, Alfonso, Cavite

Vacant Lots Overlooking Taal Lake
LA: 100,000 – 500,000 sq.m.
Tagaytay – Calamba Road
(near Rotonda)
P 1,500.00/sq.m.

DAVAO CITY

Vacant Lot
LA: 1,957 sq.m.
Bo. Ballok, Talomo
P546,930.00

Vacant Lots
LA: 300-420 sq.m.
Malina Shrine
P475.00/sq.m.

BATAAN

Vacant Lot
LA: 1,000 sq.m.
Balong Anito, Mariveles
P324,450.00

Vacant Lot
LA: 10,000 sq.m.
Bo Anahaw, Limay
P2,196,990.00

Vacant Lot
LA: 1,503 sq.m.
Bo. Kitang II, Limay
P1,114,624.80

Vacant Lot
LA: 13,985 sq.m.
Port View Village, Kamayan Point Road
(Alas-asin Road),
Mariveles
P10,169,892.00

Vacant Lot
LA: 438 sq.m.
Bo. Tundol, Limay
P324,820.80

Vacant Lot
LA: 11,332 sq.m.
Bo. Alas-asin, Cabcaben,
Mariveles
P5,241,665.60

ORIENTAL MINDORO

Vacant Lot
LA: 265 sq.m.
Bo.San Juan, San Isidro,
Victoria
P79,500.00

24 Vacant Lots
LA: 240 sq.m. each
Bo.San Juan, San Isidro,
Victoria
P72,000.00/ lot

Vacant Lot
LA: 315 sq.m.
Bo. San Isidro, Victoria
P94,500.00

Vacant Lots
LA: 300-465 sq.m.
Bgy. Malayas-Malinao, Victoria
P300.00/sq.m.

BAGUIO CITY

Two- Storey w/ Attic
Res. Townhouse
LA/FA: 112.312 sq.m.
4 BR; 2 T&B
Unit No.AT-A1, Amvil Court
Townhomes,
Marcos Highway
P 2,250,000.00

LAGUNA

Residential Lot
LA: 33,619 sq.m.
(Unnumbered) Bgy. Road,
Bgy. Caingin, Sta. Rosa
P 25,000,000.00

CEBU

Commercial/ Industrial Lots
Ten (10) Vacant Lots
LA: 9,310 sq.m.
F. Cabahug Ext., Brgy. Banilad,
Mandaue City
P 72,000,000.00

**Interested Parties
Please Contact
Telephone Nos.
525-12-68
524-90-21
Fax No. 525-13-08
Or send your offer
with your telephone & fax nos.
and full address to
P.O. Box 4579
Central Post Office, Manila**

For your Classified and Obituary Ads please call:

☎637-2008

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"

Damaged Motor Vehicles

2006 BMW R1200GS MC / IB3000
1996 Kia Ceres, Dropside / UGR-187
2005 Mazda 3, 1.6L, 4dr sedan / ZBP-465
2003 Honda CRV, Wagon / VCB-378

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc./
Dick Cariño. Tel. # **878-54-57**

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IMMEDIATE HIRING

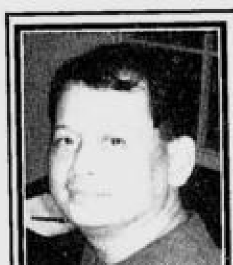
1) INSTRUCTOR / REVIEWER
- PART / FULL TIME position available
- Grad of NURSING, BS PT/OT or DOCTORS of MEDICINE Degree from Top Colleges or Universities.
- Passed any local board and/or CGFNS / NCLEX EXAM
- W/ M.A. units & at least 1-2 yrs teaching exp. in college level

2) MKTG. COORDINATOR / ASST.
- M/F not more than 35 years old
- Grad. of Business, Marketing, Allied Health related course
- Marketing work experience an advantage
- Competent in product mngt., mktg., formulation & implementation

3) ADMINISTRATIVE / OPERATIONS LOGISTICS STAFF
- M/F, not more than 35 years old
- Grad. of any Business / Library Science / Computer Science,
- Preferably w/ 1yr work experience
- Must be dependable, focused, detail oriented & highly trainable

Call & submit letter of intent, comprehensive resume, 2x2 picture, TOR, certificates / PRC Lic. of examination taken & training / seminars participated to:

H.O.	☎(02)362-4404	CEBU	☎(032)254-1388
MAKATI	☎(02)813-8222 or 82	BAGUIO	☎(074)300-1026 to 27
Q.C.	☎(02)371-8966 to 68	DAVAO	☎(082)226-8931 or 35
MANILA	☎(02)735-7713 to 16	LEGAZPI	☎(052)481-7880
		ILOILO	☎(033)336-3155 to 56



ALOYSIUS "AL" GONZAGA

(PDI - March 4, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THIS PERSON IS MISREPRESENTING HIMSELF AS AN EMPLOYEE OF EMPIRE INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISING CORPORATION & COLLECTING DEPOSITS AS PAYMENT ON BEHALF OF THE COMPANY.

PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT AL GONZAGA IS NOT CONNECTED WITH THE COMPANY NOR HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT ON BEHALF OF THE COMPANY.

- EIMC

Republika ng Pilipinas
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PATUBIG
(National Irrigation Administration)
Bancasi, Butuan City

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Date: February 26, 2007
Loan No. 1668-PH: Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project
Contract No. SPISP-LCB-GLB-03

(Local Competitive Bidding)

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project (SPISP) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation for Prequalification is issued.
2. The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) intends to pre qualify firms for the Construction of Gibong Left Bank Main Canal Extension and Appurtenant Structures based on the above mentioned contract package. The scope of contract is as follows:

Work Item	Estimated Quantity
a. Clearing and Grubbing, sq.m.	46,000
b. Canal Excavation, cu.m.	80,000
c. Canal Embankment Fill, cu.m.	20,000
d. Concrete Works with RSB, cu.m.	193

3. It is expected that notices of prequalification will be made on March, 2007.
4. Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information from the NIA-Region 13 CARAGA and inspect the Prequalification Document at the address given below during workdays from 0800 hours to 1700 hours Philippine Standard Time
5. The prequalification forms, in English language, may be purchased by an interested applicant upon submission of Letter of Intent clearly stating "Application for Prequalification for Contract No: SPISP-LCB-GLB-03 and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 2,5000.00 per contract package not later than 1700 hours, Philippine Time, March 22, 2007. The Letter of Intent shall be addressed as follows:

   The Chairman
   Bids and Awards Committee
   c/o ENGR. MEDEL P. MAWILE
   Brgy. Bancasi, Butuan City, Philippines
   Tel. No. 085-342-3000
   Facsimile No. 085-342-5353

6. Submission of Application for Prequalification, consisting of one (1) original and three (3) copies must be received in sealed envelopes either delivered by hand or by registered mail to the above address on or before April 2. 2007, 1700 hours Philippine Standard Time. The envelopes must be clearly marked "Application for the Prequalification for Contract No SPISP-LCB-GLB-03.
7. The NIA, reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
8. The NIA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Applicants in connection with the preparation or delivery of their Applications.
9. The NIA will notify all Applicants in writing the results of evaluation of their applications for prequalification.

(Sgd.) **MEDEL P. MAWILE**
BAC Chairman

Noted:

(Sgd.) **DEMOCRATICO P. GRANA, JR., CESO V**
Regional Manager

(PDI – March 4 & 11, 2007)

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dti
TRADE & INDUSTRY

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **"Lease-to-Own of IT Hardware and Peripherals with Bundled Software"** of the Department of Trade and Industry, with an approved budget of Two million three hundred twelve thousand pesos (Php 2,312,000.00).

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting 5 March 2007 until 5 P.M. of 12 March 2007 during office hours at the Supply Section, General administrative Service, Ground Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City c/o Mr. Claudio H. Averilla, with telephone number 751-4996, after paying a non-refundable fee of Two thousand Three hundred twelve pesos (Php 2, 312.00). A pre-bid conference will be held on 12 March 2007, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals, and the opening of bids will be on 26 March 2007, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The DTI Bids and Awards Committee will not entertain late bidders.

The DTI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in any of the situations enumerated in Section 41 of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its implementing rules and regulations, without the DTI assuming any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) **MARIA LOURDES T. BAUA**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – March 4, 2007)

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based in Subic Bay is in urgent need of high caliber individuals to join our team.

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Associate Director	Engineer
• Graduate of Electrical Engineering course; • Familiar on Notebook and PC product engineering analysis; • At least four (4) years related work experience in Engineering management specifically in plant production; • Excellent communication skills	• Graduate of Industrial Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering courses; • Excellent communication • Belong to top 20% of the graduating class

Interested applicants may directly apply and / or submit their resume to the address indicated below

Wistron InfoComm (Philippines), Corporation
Human Resources Department
#4 Rizal Hi-way corner Aim High Avenue
Subic Bay Industrial Park, Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Telephone No. (047) 252-77-40 ; Fascimile: (047) 2526223

wistron

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G/F OCTAGON BLDG. ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY
(Back of Megamall)
CALL/TEXT **0919-8829024 JHOAN**
CLIP THIS AD

PhilHealth, Medical City launch hospital practice training sessions

THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and The Medical City recently launched the Good Hospital Practice (GHP) Training Sessions to equip hospital staffmembers with the necessary tools to enable them to cope with the standards set forth by the PhilHealth Benchbook.

In simple ceremonies held at The Medical City recently, Lorna O. Fajardo, Acting President and CEO stressed that the series of trainings will offer ways to effectively address the growing expectations of patients, payors of care and the general public for safe and quality patient care. "These training sessions are designed to help hospital staffmembers meet the standards prescribed by the Benchbook, a tool that we introduced in 2004 to ensure the highest quality of medical care for our members," she said.

The GHP training series has modules on medication safety and management, quality improvement, nutrition assessment and therapy, informed consent, end-of-life care, patients chart documentation and legibility, sedation and restraints, infection control and safe hospital environment.

Given the new hospital accreditation standards espoused by the PhilHealth Benchbook, hospitals are prompted to demostrate clear evidence of quality, safety and productivity. "The shift from minimum or baseline levels of resources and processes to maximum achievable levels of patient-centered outcomes requires hospitals to further improve on the quality of their services that will eventually redound to the benefit of our members," Fajardo added.

The training series, which is recommended for all health care professionals and administrators of health care institutions, will also be held at The Medical City Auditorium from March to October this year and will be replicated in different hospitals within the National Capital Region as well as in the regions through PhilHealth's Regional Offices nationwide.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 929-6626 to 29 • (632) 929-6252
929-6620 • 929-6633 to 35
929-7041 to 43

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Republic of the Philippines
Second Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP2)
Supply and Delivery of Various Surveying Equipment Package
IFB. NO. LAMP 2-NCB-G-01-2007
Loan No. 7298-PH

1. The government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the World Bank toward the cost of Second Land Administration Management Project (LAMP II), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of Various Surveying Equipment Package with Contract No. LAMP2-NCB-G-01-2007.**
2. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Supply and Delivery of Various Surveying Equipment Package.** Delivery of the goods will be made within **sixty (60) calendar days** upon receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. The procurement will be conducted through the government open competitive procedures specified under the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of the Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, with some amendments as stated in these Bidding Documents. The estimated Project cost is around **PhP 9,700,000.00.**
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC-FAPs and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **March 5 - 26, 2007, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **Php 5,000.00** (excluding courier fee outside of Metro Manila). The method of payment will be in a form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The DENR BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties **on March 14, 2007 at 10:00 am at FASPO Conference Room, FASPO Bldg., DENR Compound, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.**
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **March 26, 2007, 2:00 pm.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's/Manager's Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Bank Guarantee as follows. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Lot No.	Lot Description	Cash, certified check cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1%)	Bank Guarantee (1.5%)
Lot No. 1	Total Station	PHP 27,000.00	PHP 40,500.00
Lot No. 2	GPS Receiver (Single Frequency)	PHP 25,000.00	PHP 37,500.00
Lot No. 3	GPS Receiver (Dual Frequency)	PHP 45,000.00	PHP 67,500.00

8. Bid opening shall be on **March 26, 2007, 3:00 pm.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The **DENR BAC-FAPs** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DENR BAC-FAPs Secretariat
FASPO Conference Room,
FASPO Bldg., DENR Compound, Visayas Ave., Diliman Quezon City.
Tel No.: (0632) 927-6755 / 929-66-26 to 29 local 2059
Fax No.: (0632) 927-6755

(Sgd.) **ANALIZA REBUELTA-TEH**
Assistant Secretary and Chair,
Bids and Awards Committee for Foreign Assisted Projects
(BAC-FAPs)

(PDI – Mar. 4, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Region XI
Division of Davao del Sur
Digos City
Tel. 082-553-4288; 553-9647; 553-7243

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education Division Office, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects.

NAME OF PROJECTS : Supply and Delivery of School Furniture
LOCATION : DEPED – Division of Davao del Sur
BRIEF DESCRIPTION : Elementary Tables & Chairs and Secondary Armchairs
ABC & FUNDING SOURCE : DepEd – Division of Davao del Sur
CONTRACT DURATION : Sixty Calendar Days (60)
DELIVERY SITES : Door-to-Door Delivery to Different School Recipients

Cluster	QUANTITY		AMOUNT
1	467	Elem. Tables & Chairs (All Wood)	P 747,200.00
2	956	Sec. Armchairs (All Wood)	745,680.00
3	674	Elem. Tables & Chairs (All Wood)	1,078,400.00
4	1,384	Sec. Armchairs (All Wood)	1,079,520.00
		Grand Total	**P 3,650,800.00**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary Pass/Fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9184 known as the Government Procurement Act and is restricted to organization with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stocks belonging to all citizens of the Philippines as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the Eligibility Check is described in Section 11, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The DepEd Division Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on March 12, 2007 @ 1:00 p.m. and Eligibility and Opening of Bids will be on March 15, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the Division Multi-Purpose Hall, Lapu-Lapu St., Digos City. Late Bids shall be rejected. Bids excess of the Approved Budget shall be rejected.

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders at the BAC-Secretariat/TWG at the Supply Office, upon payment of the non-refundable amount of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00) at the Division Cashier.

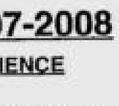
The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract awards without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **LOUELLA S. TANCONTIAN**
Asst. Schools Division Superintendent
BAC Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) **ANGELINA C. GIDUCOS, Ed.D., CESO VI**
Schools Division Superintendent

(PDI–March 4, 2007)

LOURDES SCHOOL OF MANDALUYONG
Shaw Blvd., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City 1552
Webpage Address: www.lsm.edu.ph
P.O. Box 12959 Ortigas Center Pasig City 1605
6311921; 6329547; 6316356; 6339443; 6316310



WANTED FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2007-2008

GRADE SCHOOL ENGLISH, MATH, MUSIC AND SCIENCE TEACHERS

SECONDARY TEACHERS MAJOR IN MATH, SCIENCE, ENGLISH, COMPUTER, BUSINESS EDUCATION, MUSIC AND CHRISTIAN LIVING EDUCATION

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS (MALE/FEMALE) & EDUCATIONAL RESEARCHERS

Applicant must be Catholic, not more than 35 years old, with above average scholastic records and must have pass the L.E.T. (Licensure Examination for Teachers).

ATTRACTIVE SALARY AND BENEFITS AWAIT SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.

Apply personally and bring your transcipt of records.

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(PDI – Feb. 25 & March 4, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF THE MEMORANDUM OF THE LAW DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO THE CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY OF PERSONS VYING FOR THE POSITIONS OF SENATOR IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 14, 2007 ELECTIONS
x - x

Chairman Benjamin S. Abalos, Sr.
Commissioner Resurreccion Z. Borra
Commissioner Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.
Commissioner Romeo A. Brawner
Commissioner Rene V. Sarmiento
Commissioner Nicodemo T. Ferrer

Promulgated:
March 2, 2007

RESOLUTION NO. 7832

This pertains to the 14 February 2007 Memorandum of the Law Department relative to the Certificates of Candidacy of persons vying for the positions of Senator in connection with the May 14, 2007 Elections.

The Memorandum reads:

"The Law Department respectfully submits its study and recommendation on the certificate of candidacy of persons vying for the positions of Senator. The following persons submitted their Certificate of Candidacy for Senator:

NAME

1. *ABITONA, Orlando C.*
2. *ANCHETA, Juanito Jr., B.*
3. *ANGARA, Edgardo J.*
4. *AQUINO, Benigno Simeon III C.*
5. *AQUINO, Theodore M.*
6. *ARROYO, Joker P.*
7. *ATIENZA, Arturo A.*
8. *BAUTISTA, Martin D.*
9. *BER ADO, Bonifacio B.*
10. *BOQUIA, Jocelyn R.*
11. *BRIGGS, Buenafe A.*
12. *BULANON, Silverio G.*
13. *CABRERA, Rafael M.*
14. *CANTAL, Felix C.*
15. *CAPULAR, Elizabeth S.*
16. *CASTOR, Macariola A.*
17. *CAYETANO, Alan Peter S.*
18. *CAYETANO, Joselito P.*
19. *CHAVEZ, Melchor G.*
20. *CLAUDIO, Felix D.*
21. *COMBATE, Amado C.*
22. *COSETENG, Anna Dominique M.*
23. *DEFENSOR, Michael T.*
24. *DEL MUNDO, Gerardo A.*
25. *ENCISO, Ruben C.*
26. *ESCUDERO, Francis Joseph G.*
27. *ESMERALDA, Julieto Sr., O.*
28. *ESTRELLA, Antonio L.*
29. *FLAMINIANO, Eduardo B.*
30. *FORTES, Alfredo A.*
31. *GOMEZ, Richard I.*
32. *GUILLERGAN, Gherry A.*
33. *HASHIM, Mujahab A.*
34. *HONASAN, Gregorio B.*
35. *JOSON, Dante D.*
36. *KIRAM, Jamalul D.*
37. *LACSON, Panfilo M.*
38. *LAGATA, Merlito O.*
39. *LEGARDA, Loren B.*
40. *LOZANO, Oliver O.*

NAME

41. *MAGSAYSAY, Vicente P.*
42. *MAGTIRA, Daniel R.*
43. *MALUENDA, Severo Jr., L.*
44. *MENDEZ, Agapito Jr., W.*
45. *ONGKIKO, Mario E.*
46. *ORETA, Teresa Tao A.*
47. *OROZCO, Wilhelmina S.*
48. *ORPILLA, Eduardo F.*
49. *OSMEÑA, John Henry R.*
50. *PANGILINAN, Francis N.*
51. *PAREDES, Zosimo Jesus II M.*
52. *PASTORAL, Genaro R.*
53. *PETILLA, Carlos Jericho L.*
54. *PICHAY, Prospero Jr., A.*
55. *PIMENTEL, Aquilino L.*
56. *PIÑERA, Rummel M.*
57. *PO, Manuel A.*
58. *PONCE-DEE, Remedios B.*
59. *RAMIRO, Vincent M.*
60. *RECTO, Ralph G.*
61. *REMOTO, Danton R.*
62. *ROBES, Jose C.*
63. *ROCA, Cesar C.*
64. *ROCO, Sonia M.*
65. *RODRIGUEZ, Romeo T.*
66. *ROQUE, Benjamin G.*
67. *SANTOS, Victor L.*
68. *SENINING, Loreto Jr., Y.*
69. *SINGSON, Luis C.*
70. *SISON, Adrian O.*
71. *SOTTO, Vicente III C.*
72. *TAJANAN, Francisco M.*
73. *TAYCO, Marcelo Jr., R.*
74. *TIQUI, Camilo V.*
75. *TRILLANES, Antonio IV F.*
76. *TUAZON, Elpidio G.*
77. *VILLANUEVA, Vicente Y.*
78. *VILLAR, Manuel Jr., B.*
79. *WOOD, Victor N.*
80. *ZUBIRI, Juan Miguel F.*

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In view of the foregoing, the Commission RESOLVED as it hereby RESOLVES, to APPROVE the recommendations of the Law Department with modification as follows:

1.) To GIVE due course to the Affidavit of Withdrawal of the candidacy of CARLOS JERICHO L. PETILLA and the Certificate of Candidacy of CESAR D. MONTANO as senator in substitution of the former.

2.) To GIVE due course to the sworn affidavit of withdrawal and to exclude the name MARIO E. ONGKIKO from the list of official candidates of Ang Kapatiran Party.

3.) To DENY due course to the Certificate of Nomination of United Opposition (UNO) in favor of ANNA DOMINIQUE M. COSETENG as one of its official senatorial candidates.

4.) To GIVE due course to the certificates of candidacy of the official candidates of the political parties, namely:

A. KILUSANG BAGONG LIPUNAN
  1. CAYETANO, Joselito P.
  2. CHAVEZ, Melchor G.
  3. ESTRELLA, Antonio L.
  4. LOZANO, Oliver O.
  5. ORPILLA, Eduardo F.
  6. ENCISO, Ruben C.
  7. WOOD, Victor N.

B. NATIONALIST PEOPLES' PARTY
  1. ESCUDERO, Francis Joseph G.
  2. LEGARDA, Loren B.
  3. SOTTO, Vicente III C.
  4. ORETA, Teresa Tao A.

C. PARTIDO NG DEMOKRATIKONG PILIPINO (PDP-LABAN)
  1. PIMENTEL, Aquilino L.

D. LAKAS-CMD
  1. DEFENSOR, Michael T.
  2. MAGSAYSAY, Vicente P.
  3. MONTANO, Cesar D.
  4. PICHAY, Prospero Jr., A.
  5. RECTO, Ralph G.
  6. SINGSON, Luis C.
  7. ZUBIRI, Juan Miguel F.

E. UNITED OPPOSITION (UNO)
  1. LACSON, Panfilo M.
  2. OSMEÑA, John Henry R.
  3. TRILLANES, Antonio IV F.

F. LIBERAL PARTY
  1. AQUINO, Benigno Simeon III C.
  2. PANGILINAN, Francis N.

G. ANG KAPATIRAN PARTY
  1. BAUTISTA, Martin D.
  2. PAREDES, Zosimo Jesus II M.
  3. SISON, Adrian O.

H. AKSYON DEMOKRATIKO
  1. ROCO, Sonia M.

I. KABALIKAT NG MALAYANG PILIPINO (KAMPI)
  1. ARROYO, Joker P.

J. NACIONALISTA PARTY (NP)
  1. CAYETANO, Alan Peter S.
  2. VILLAR, Manuel Jr., B.

K. LABAN NG DEMOKRATIKONG PILIPINO (LABAN)
  1. ANGARA, Edgardo J.

L. PARTIDO DEMOKRATIKO SOSYALISTA NG PILIPINAS (PDSP)
  1. KIRAM, Jamalul M.

M. PHILIPPINE GREEN REPUBLICAN PARTY
  1. CANTAL, Felix C.

5.) To GIVE due course to the certificates of candidacy of the following independent candidates:

1. COSETENG, Anna Dominique M.
2. GOMEZ, Richard I.
3. HONASAN, Gregorio B.

6.) To direct the Law Department to comply with Section 4 of Resolution No. 7822, promulgated 13 February 2007, to wit:

> *"SECTION 4. Preparation and publication of names of candidates. – On or before April 11, 2007, the Law Department shall prepare two separate lists of candidates for Senators. The first list shall consist of those candidates who complied with the mandatory drug test while the second list shall consist of those candidates who failed to comply with said drug test.*
>
> x x x x x x x x x
>
> *Thereafter said lists shall be published in two (2) newspapers of general circulation."*

7.) To order the following senatorial candidates to appear before the Commission on 06 March 2007 and to show cause whether their certificates of candidacy should be given due course:

1. ABITONA, Orlando C.
2. ANCHETA, Juanito Jr., B.
3. AQUINO, Theodore M.
4. ATIENZA, Arturo A.
5. BER ADO, Bonifacio B.
6. BOQUIA, Jocelyn R.
7. BRIGGS, Buenafe A.
8. BULANON, Silverio G.
9. CABRERA, Rafael M.
10. CAPULAR, Elizabeth S.
11. CASTOR, Macariola A.
12. CLAUDIO, Felix D.
13. COMBATE, Amado C.
14. DEL MUNDO, Gerardo A.
15. ESMERALDA, Julieto Sr., O.
16. FLAMINIANO, Eduardo B.
17. FORTES, Alfredo A.
18. GUILLERGAN, Gherry A.
19. HASHIM, Mujahab A.
20. JOSON, Dante D.
21. LAGATA, Merlito O.
22. MAGTIRA, Daniel R.
23. MALUENDA, Severo Jr., L.
24. MENDEZ, Agapito Jr., W.
25. OROZCO, Wilhelmina S.
26. PASTORAL, Genaro R.
27. PIÑERA, Rummel M.
28. PO, Manuel A.
29. PONCE-DEE, Remedios B.
30. RAMIRO, Vincent M.
31. REMOTO, Danton R.
32. ROBES, Jose C.
33. ROCA, Cesar C.
34. RODRIGUEZ, Romeo T.
35. ROQUE, Benjamin G.
36. SANTOS, Victor L.
37. SENINING, Loreto Jr., Y.
38. TAJANAN, Francisco M.
39. TAYCO, Marcelo Jr., R.
40. TIQUI, Camilo V.
41. TUAZON, Elpidio G.
42. VILLANUEVA, Vicente Y.

The Clerk of the Commission shall assign a docket number to Certificates of Candidacy subject of item number 7 which must bear the year and prefixed as SPA (MP) for orderly proceedings.

This resolution is without prejudice to any disqualification case for violation of the election laws and other related laws, resolutions, orders and rules and regulations of the Commission, particularly Resolution No. 7822.

Let the Education and Information Department cause the immediate publication of the dispositive portion of this resolution in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

On Official Business
ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

(SGD) **NICODEMO T. FERRER**
Commissioner

(PDI – March 4, 2007)

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* *With pending disqualification case docketed as SPA 07-019 scheduled for hearing on 07 March 2007.*

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1569 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENT

Invitation for Submission of Expressions of Interest/ Statement of Qualification for the Provision of Books and Other Learning Resources Materials on Information Technology, Computers and the Internet to Qualified High Schools in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao under the USAID-Financed Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. (LBGI), a U.S. firm contracted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program in partnership with the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo), is inviting interested and qualified book publishers and distributors to submit their expressions of interest (EOI) for the provision of books and other learning resource materials on information technology, computers and the internet to qualified recipient high schools in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other conflict-affected areas of Mindanao (CAAM) under GEM's Computer Literacy and Internet Connection (CLIC) Program.

For EOIs to be evaluated, it should be accompanied with statements of qualification that should include the following: (a) company/organization's profile to include name(s) of principal personnel with complete addresses and contact numbers; (b) comprehensive list of I.T., computer and internet-related books and other learning resource materials with brief summary on each material; copies of (c) SEC registration for corporations, partnerships, joint ventures or foundations and CDA registration for cooperatives; (d) DTI registration or business registration name; (e) VAT registration certificate (if applicable); (f) current business permit; (g) audited financial statements for the past two years; (h) list of completed projects and on-going projects similar in nature to the project described herein; and (i) list of client/corporate/business references with contact details.

The deadline for the submission of these documents is March 14, 2007, Wednesday, on or before 5 P.M. addressed to the: The Deputy Program Manager for Contracts and Administration (CLIC Book Publishers or Distributors) GEM Program Office, 2/F 1 Ladislawa Building, Ladislawa Avenue, Buhangin, Davao City. ***EOIs from Mindanao-based book distributors are encouraged.***

(PDI – March 04, 2007)

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1569 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENT

Invitation for Submission of Expressions of Interest/ Statement of Qualification for the Provision of Information Technology, Computers and Internet-Related Training to Teachers of Qualified High Schools in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao under the USAID-Financed Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. (LBGI), a U.S. firm contracted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mindanao(GEM) Program in partnership with the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo), is inviting interested and qualified training service providers and individual training specialists and professionals to submit expressions of interest (EOI) for the provision of IT, computer and internet-related training to teachers of qualified recipient high schools in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other conflict-affected areas of Mindanao (CAAM) under GEM's Computer Literacy and Internet Connection (CLIC) Program.

For EOIs to be evaluated, training service providers must provide statements of qualification that will include the following: (a) company/organization's profile to include name(s) of principal personnel, their addresses and contact numbers; (b) comprehensive list of I.T., computer and internet-related training courses with brief summary for each course; copies of (c) SEC registration for corporations, partnerships, joint ventures or foundations and CDA registration for cooperatives; (d) DTI registration and business registration name; (e) VAT registration certificate (if applicable); (f) current business permit; (g) audited financial statements for the past two years; (h) list of completed projects and on-going projects similar in nature to the project described herein; and (i) list of client/corporate/business references with contact details.

For individual training specialists or professionals, the EOIs must be accompanied by a statement of qualification that will include the following: (a) comprehensive CV; (b) comprehensive list of I.T., computer and internet-related training courses designed and conducted, with contact details of contracting party; and (c) list of corporate/client/business references with contact details.

The deadline for the submission of these documents is March 14, 2007, Wednesday, on or before 5 P.M. addressed to the: The Deputy Program Manager for Contracts and Administration (CLIC Training Providers) GEM Program Office, 2/F 1 Ladislawa Building, Ladislawa Avenue, Buhangin, Davao City. ***EOIs from Mindanao-based training providers and individuals are encouraged.***

(PDI – March 04, 2007)

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
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Tel: (6382) 225-1569 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENT

Invitation for Submission of Expressions of Interest/ Statement of Qualification for the Provision of U.S.– Branded Desktop Computers, Printers, Peripherals and Technical Support Services to Qualified High Schools in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao under the USAID-Financed Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. (LBGI), a U.S. firm contracted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program in partnership with the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo), is inviting interested and qualified companies/firms/suppliers/contractors to submit proposals for the provision of U.S.-branded computers, peripheral equipment and follow-on operations, maintenance and technical services to qualified recipient high schools in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other conflict-affected areas of Mindanao (CAAM) under GEM's Computer Literacy and Internet Connection (CLIC) Program. Procurement shall be conducted in accordance with the U.S. Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 15 – Contracting by Negotiation and award will be made to the offeror who best demonstrates the ability to provide the required products and services at the most reasonable price.

A pre-proposal submission conference for prospective offerors is scheduled on March 8, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at the GEM Program Office Conference Room, 2/F 1 Ladislawa Building, Ladislawa Ave., Buhangin, Davao City. ***Prospective offerors that do not attend this meeting are disqualified from participating in this procurement action.***

(PDI – March 04, 2007)

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1569 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENT

Invitation for Submission of Expressions of Interest/ Statement of Qualification for the Provision of Internet Connections to Qualified High Schools in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao under the USAID-Financed Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. (LBGI), a U.S. firm contracted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program in partnership with the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo), is inviting interested and qualified internet service providers (ISPs) to submit proposals for the provision of internet connections and follow-on operations, maintenance and technical services to qualified recipient high schools in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other conflict-affected areas of Mindanao (CAAM) under GEM's Computer Literacy and Internet Connection (CLIC) Program. Procurement shall be conducted in accordance with the U.S. Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 15 – Contracting by Negotiation and award will be made to the offeror who best demonstrates the ability to provide the required services at the most reasonable price.

A pre-proposal submission conference for prospective offerors is scheduled on March 08, 2007, Thursday at 1:30 P.M. at the GEM Program Office Conference Room, 2/F 1 Ladislawa Building, Ladislawa Avenue, Buhangin, Davao City. ***Prospective offerors that do not attend this meeting are disqualified from participating in this procurement action.***

(PDI – March 04, 2007)

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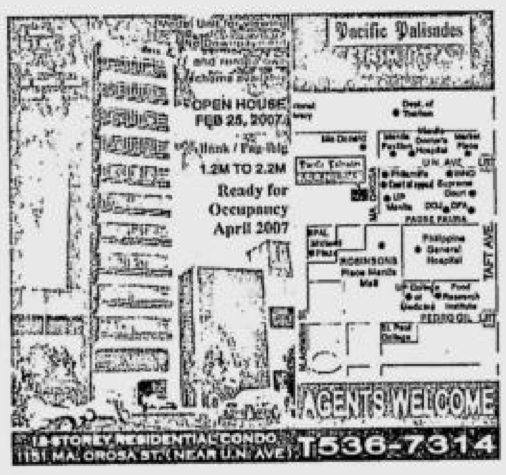
6,000+ SQ. MTR.
90% TENANTED
GOOD INCOME PROPERTY
WELL BUILT & MAINTAINED
ALONG GIL PUYAT
(BUENDIA)
DIRECT BUYERS ONLY
CELL # 0917-856-8633
CELL # 0917-838-4762

FACTORY/WHSE

Whse 500m²-2.2has Sale/Rent Mla anywhere 09189014661


Pacific Palisades
OPEN HOUSE FEB 25, 2007
1.2M TO 2.2M
Ready for Occupancy April 2007
TAFT AVE.
AGENTS WELCOME
18-STOREY RESIDENTIAL CONDO
1151 MA. OROSA ST. (NEAR U.N. AVE)
T536-7314

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

MANDALUYONG FOR RENT MULTI-SPACES 532-5885

CONDO/TWNHSE

California Garden 58m² 2BR 2TB 14T/mo • 0920-9618079

GARDENHEIGHTS E. Rod 20T St Luke 2BR 0922-6029328

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

GILMORE 18T/MO 9328744

*GREENHILLS GARDEN SQ
Condo w/skyview of Antipolo
115m² Santolan St. Crame
Cubao T 421-6182/83 loc104
Tony Ongsiako 0918-9009785

Makati P. Burgos Condo 95SM 4Bed Semi Furn 30Th 0928-2461033

MKT. CONDOS 09209126709

NR LasalTaft 1BR Furn Makati NR CT Hall 2BRS CTLand 8 Studio 8509507

APARTMENT

1 Unit for Rent 14Thou
Nice and Strong Water
No. 1 Aranda St Dela Paz
Makati City Call 8974626

2 STY 2BR / TB / H²O OK NR. TRANS MKT HOSP KM 22 MARILAO (044)711-1907

NR DLSU T 8992148

Paranaque Better Living Guam St. 2 1/2BR 2TB cport P10K T9271197 Pons

Proj 8 4BR 2TB P15T 09179688823

U/D 7T NARRA TDO 2528553

FOR LEASE

BF RESORT LP 4Rms P12T 8509507 / 09178016573

BUILDING SPACE FOR LEASE
PASIG CITY
FOR FACTORY OR CALL CENTER
CALL 6438149 OR 9168266
LOOK FOR LADY

WAREHOUSE/FACTORY

440M² WAREHSE W/OFC SPACE 7BR 3TB 4 ADAMS ST BRGY SN ANTONIO NR MUNOZ MRKT 0918-9095514

LIMAY BATAAN 5000sqms P50 /sqm 09178016573

ROOM & BOARD

MALE/furn/Residencial/8973770

NICE STUDIO & 1 BDROOM DOWNTOWN PASIG CALL ARNOLD /MALOU 6411975/ 6418485 9AM TO 5PM MON-SAT

RM 4 RENT OR BEDSPACE NR UST Chns Gen Hopp SM SAN LZRO 0910.8566893 / 4163251

BEDSPACE

2perRM/SngleBed/T8973770

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1%R. Estate Loan, Sal. Seaman ED 746-0186 • 0919-3317582

ORION LOAN 1.25% CREDIT CARD 472-1300 0927-9860900

PERSONAL LOANS 524-3197

BUILDING FOR LEASE

5000SQM BUILDING FOR LEASE
CANLUBANG LAGUNA
IDEAL FOR FACTORY OR WAREHOUSE
CALL 6438149 OR 9168266
LOOK FOR LADY

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Ofc Space Makati 430 Sq. 3 Parking 8138420 - 8133568

Ofc Space Makati 461Sq. 4 Parking 8133568 - 8138420

PETRON MEGAPLAZA 265SQM W/ 2 PARKING AVAIL APR 1 •842-6478•0920-9526572•

COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL

ATENEO NEW 1BR FF 5642622

CONDO/TWHSE/FOR SALE/RENT

Condo 1BR 22k Olympic Heights 8133568 - 8138420

MAKATI•MALATE•ROCKWELL& OFFICE SPACE 09158075807

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

'96 NISSAN LEC 95K neg 89Kalayaan QC Call 433-0528

CARS

1984 MERCEDES BENZ 200
GAS, SELDOM USE, TOP
Condition P200T T#241-6085

95FX diesel 114T 4399454

ABAMARIE RENT A VAN
8255704 09212445702

Pajero Field Master P860T
2001 Blk 90/km 1st own
9510969 - 9270072

RAV4/03/MT/SILVER/OWNER DRIVEN/27K/LOADED MAKE AN OFFER 09178995659

OTHER CAR BRANDS

BERYLLE CARS
Araneta Ctr Cubao nr Ali Mall & # 2179 Taft Ave Pasay.
Finance T-in slot rental P3K Consgn 4391117: 09178342020 Noah Ipsum ELGrand Lancer Chariot Granvia Crown MU Prado Mistral Fargo Accord Terano Carry Elf Canter etc

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

VANS 9226702 9214535

CARS FOR RENT

•Carlines Rent a Car•
Vans, Coaster, Bus, Xpdtn
F-150 4Whl Benz U-Drive Car
813-1975 • 8131976

CAR LOAN

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

1% Car Lending 6560140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% EASY CARLOAN 8997759

1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723810/12

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

Maral Piano 30T 9370139

Mural/Painting 250T 4266310

BILLIARDS

B'LIARD TBLE 38T-UP 8014494

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT PIANOS TERMS -T7213124

PETS

4 SALE DACHSHUND PUPPIES W/PAPERS & VACCINATED 2 MOS OLD CONTACT 09177502588

M/F 3mos SIBERIAN Husky Pups, St Bernard Pups with papers Ready for pick-up 09178858713 ; 9134764

Rhodesian Ridgeback Frm Imptd Aussie Parent 09153036231 www.phil-ridgebacks.com

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LAWYER
Male
at least 3 years
experience
in litigation
Send your
Resume by fax
to 633-2422

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!
SECRETARY/Asst. SECRETARY
Female, 20-25 years old, 5'2" and above. Has pleasing personality. Computer literate. Fluent in English. Send resumé with photo, Contact nos., copy of Passport, NBI Clearance, NSO Birth certificate & Scholastic records to dubaidanny@yahoo.com

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

PCCI
374th & 375th PCCI
ALL BREEDS DOG
SHOW
THE BLOCK SM CITY
NORTH EDSA, Q.C.
MARCH 17 & 18, 2007
UNDER INT'L. JUDGES
MS. PATRICIA GUILD
(S. AFRICA)
MS. DENISE CLARK (US)
Deadline of Entries
March 14, 2007
STRICTLY NO
ADDENDUM
FCI GROUPINGS
SPONSORS:
PRO PLAN DOG FOOD
PEDIGREE DOG FOOD

PRINTING EQUIPMENT

DIE CUTTING MACHINE
VAN YONG 30x22
MINERVA 19x14
P150T Package deal
4762710 negotiable 601 Oval
Street Sto Nino Marikina

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RESIDENTIAL CONDO
•Rockwell 2 to 3 BDR
VACANT LOT/Old Structure
•Bel-Air 3 & 4 400-700m²
•Dasmariñas Village 800-1,000m²
•South Forbes 1,600m² more or less
•Ayalang Alabang Vill 800-1,000m² rear to the Golf Course
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ROLEX
HIS & HERS Watch Center
GoldCrest Bldg., Glorietta - 2
5646593 5897041 0917-8473744

MISCELLANEOUS

MARVEL DC COMICS WINES LIQUOR LPRECORDS VHS 8522528 09173281715

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER COURSE
528-0730 Study Now Pay Later
0917-7924104, 0922-8148322

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ROSITA Y. ASONG consisting of real property was extrajudicially settled and distributed among her heirs ABRAHAM B. ASONG and CYNTHIA Y. ASONG by means of public document executed on Feb. 26, 2007, and ratified before Atty. JOSE CARLOS TANINGCO, Notary Public in and for Makati City, as per Doc. No. 372, Page No. 76, Book III, series of 2007, of his Notaria;l Register.
(Mar. 4,11&18, 2007)

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR of 2230 M. Roxas St. Sta Ana Manila Auction Sale on MAR. 13, 2007. Tue. at 2:30 in the afternoon. Respectively. OCT. 14- NOV. 13, 2006 SONS of J. LANUZA, Auctioneer
(PDI - March 04, 2007)

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MEMBER: AMA GROUP OF COMPANIES
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TOP CAR LOAN BANK
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ACCEPTABLE YEAR MODELS
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413-5777 / 372-6698 / 372-6526 / 373-9913
416-8144/416-8145/373-3901 loc. 8302/8303/8220

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP
I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City. AUCTION SALE on MAR. 13, 2007 Tue. at 10:30, 11:00, 12:30, and 1:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon, Respectively Oct. 14-Nov 13 2006.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer
(PDI - March 04, 2007)

MUNOZ-BRIONES PAWNSHOP
Auction-March 9, 2007
All unredeemed articles
from October1-31, 2006
354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
109 Dela Rosa Makati 10AM
VZamora-Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late AURORA DIZON CAÑIZARES & FERNANDO L. CAÑIZARES were extrajudicially settled among their heirs before notary public Atty. Candice B. Manalo as per Doc#454 Page#91 Book#03 Series of 2007.
(PDI-Mar. 4,11 & 18, 2007)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MA. LOIDA SARINAS LAPIÑA HAS BEEN EXTRA JUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HER HEIR AS PER DOC#142;PAGE#29;BOOK#XVIII; SERIES OF 2007 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. LEONARDO G. MEDINA OF BACOOR CAVITE.
(PDI-FEB. 25, MAR. 4&11, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CONSTANCIO T. MAGNO has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 472, Page No. 95, Book No. 102, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Jose L. Sta. Ana of Marikina City.
(PDI-March 4, 11 & 18, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ELIZABETH T. FAMINI was self-adjudicated among her heirs as per Doc#482 Page#97 Book#LXIX Series of 2007 of Notary Public Franklin G. Abadilla of Marikina City.
(PDI - Feb. 25 Mar. 4, & 11 2007)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF LATE LOLITA D. JAYPE HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HER HEIRS AS PER DOC#058;PAGE#13;BOOK#28; SERIES OF 2007 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. DANILO BAÑARES OF MAKATI CITY.
(MAR. 4,11&18, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

APM Cert. Nos. 23438, 15439, 15501, 17744, Cert. Nos. 139099, 78986, 79461, PET Cert. No. 2794 issued to MDR SEC. INC. has been lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-March 4, 11 & 18, 2007)

I-CARD of JIN YOUNG LEE
was lost Last Feb. 26,2007 If found Pls Call at Tel# 896-88-56 ; 8952827

MERALCO-A CERTIFICATE NO. 142121A-200 SHARES; NO. 222755A -100 SHARES UNDER THE NAME OF KATHRYN C. CHUA WERE DECLARED LOST, IF NO CONTEST IS RECEIVED W/ IN 1YR NEW CERTIFICATES WILL BE ISSUED.
(PDI- Feb. 25 Mar. 4 & 11, 2007)

MERALCO-A CERTIFICATE NO. 142212A - 200 SHARES; NO. 222833A -100 SHARES UNDER THE NAME OF CHUA SIO LON WERE DECLARED LOST, IF NO CONTEST IS RECEIVED W/ IN 1YR NEW CERTIFICATES WILL BE ISSUED.
(PDI- Feb. 25 Mar. 4 & 11, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the Manila Southwoods Golf Club Stock Cert# B-0984 issued to PETER J. DOREY was lost.If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Feb. 25,Mar.4& 11,2007)

Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIA
Province of Northern Samar
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: March 04,2007
ADB Loan No.: 1772-PHI
Contract No.: SP-08-009-01

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT SECTOR (InfRES) PROJECT and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for **Rehabilitation/Improvement of 12.34 kilometers Victoria Farm to Market Road, Package 1.** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank that:
   (a) are registered with Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to undertake infrastructure projects as Medium A contractor or better, and
   (b) have undertaken within the past 5 years as the contractor, management contractor or subcontractor, (3) roads construction work projects valued at least Nineteen Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P19,500,000.00) each.
2. The LGU-Victoria invites sealed bids from bidders with the above qualifications for the construction and completion of the Works for the Rehabilitation/Improvement of 12.34 kilometers Victoria Farm to Market Road Package 1, which includes Earthworks (Excavation and embankment); Road Gravelling; and Construction/Installation of RCBC and RCPC. The Contract Period is about Twelve months (360 calendar days).
3. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, at BAC Secretariat LGU-Victoria, Victoria Northern Samar.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of anon-refundable fee of **EIGHT THOUSAND PESOS (P8,000.00).**
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Security of 2% of the total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to LGU-VICTORIA, VICTORIA , N. SAMAR. The schedule of bid activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue
Issuance of Bid Documents	March 5 to April 10, 2007	8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M	BAC Secretariat, LGU-Victoria, N. Samar
Bid Preparation Period	March 12 to April 10, 2007		
Pre-Bid Conference	March 30, 2007	9:00 A.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar
Deadline for Submission of Bids	April 11, 2007	9:59 A.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar
Bid Opening	April 11, 2007	10:00 A.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N Samar

6. The LGU reserves the right to accept or reject any bids and to cancel the bidding process at any time prior to award of the contractor, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidders of the reasons for Employer's action.
7. For further inquiries you can call cell no. 09065840767

(Sgd.) **MARTHA E. CADANO**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Mar. 4, 2007)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Audio/Video Distributorship/ UK Product/Apply ASAP/Call 09178891002

Business Loan Fast Release
Call 8959526 or
09274432381 Look for
Ric Espiritu Agents Welcome

EARN FROM HOME -BASED BUSINESS 0906-2210810 Text location / name / age

Need Extra Income! Acctg/Eng'g Grad. txt name/age 09194039971

PART/FULLTIME 09275357839

RTW closing sale kids adults P20 up to P50 09178830002

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Asap Manicurista Salary Com 09215141678 QC Mand Brnch

CAREGIVER • 528-0722

COMPANY IS IN NEED OF
*FEMALE ACCTG. CLERK
W/EXPERIENCE IN GENERAL ACCOUNTING; MARKETING SERVICES EXPERIENCE IS AN ADVANTAGE, MUST BE COMP./PROGRAM-LITERATE
*M/F PROGRAMMER
COMPUTER SCIENCE GRAD. W/ ACTUAL PROGRAMMING EXPERIENCE. ATTRACTIVE SALARIES AWAIT HIREES, PREFERRABLY PARAÑAQUE /MUNTINLUPA RESIDENTS OR WILLING TO RELOCATE/BOARD IN THIS AREA CALL:8246142 GUY/BING

DEPED-MAKATI
VACANT ITEM
T-1 M#41944

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

DEPED-MARIKINA CITY
OSEC-DECSB TCH2-36183 TCH1-47790 47970 TCH2-36145 TCH3-36242 TCH3-36330 36251 36107 35076

Driver Yaya 5Maids 7404103

LIC. PHARMACIST Female Bicutan Tagig & Pasig 641-6446 671-1553 641-6387

OFCSTAFF MKTG/HR
HRD MNGR # 0920-6213024

RUSH!! Hiring 09185076525 luk 4 Ms Czarina

SECRETARY 2nd YR COLLEGE SINGLE FEMALE 7417060

Vacant Teacher I Item Division of Pasig City & San Juan Santolan High School, Pasig City Item No.OSEC-DECSB-TCH1-30674-2004 OS-BEED Eligible w/ valid PRC License FLORENTINA R. LIZANO, ASDS-OIC

MALE/FEMALE

Dep Ed Makati City Vacancy
Item# OSEC-DECS B
TCHR 1-254211

DEP ED Mkati City Item # 34984 TCHR 3

ENGLISH TRAINERS
URGENT 7175012-13

VETERINARIAN 09196366345

HENRY A. BRIMO

peacefully joined our Lord
on March 3, 2007 at the age of 94.

His beloved wife **Maria Paz Roces Sotelo**;
children and in-laws, **Jerry & Jessica, Henry Jr. & Kiku,**
Robert (†) & **Hiroko, Stephen**; his grandchildren, **Stephanie,**
Danielle, Nicole, Matthew, Michael, Nicholas and **Alyssa,**
request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

He lies in state at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills.

The funeral Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday,
March 7, 2007 at the Santuario de San Jose Jose, Greenhills.

Interment will follow at the Manila Memorial Park,
Sucat, Parañaque.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute
to your departed loved one. *Always caring...* **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

Obituary Requirements: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Death Notice

BENJAMIN
"Burabo"
C. REYES

Joined our
Creator
on March 1, 2007 at
the age of 79.

His body lies in state at 41 Sitio Sto. Rosario, Victoria, Tarlac. Interment will be on March 10, 2007, 8 a.m. at Victoria Memorial Cemetery.

"A great man is he
who does not lose his
family's heart"

On March 4, 2007, the 10th Death Anniversary of

BENITO LOZANO MERCADO, JR.

Masses will be offered at the following churches

Our Lady of Lourdes	*Kanlaon, Quezon City*	5:30 AM
Baguio Cathedral	*Baguio City*	6:00 AM
Sacred Heart	*Morning Breeze, Caloocan City*	7:30 AM
Divine Mercy	*Mapayapa I, Quezon City*	7:00 AM
St. Alphonsus Mary De Liguori	*Magallanes Village.*	7:00 AM
St. Benedict Chapel	*Alabang Hills, Alabang*	7:45 AM
St. Gabriel	*Potrero, Malabon*	5:00 PM

By his loving wife, Nenita Vergel de Dios; children and grandchildren: Rene, Timothy and Angel; Glenn & Cholie Laya, Denise and David; Gary & Melissa Zamuco. Arianna and Roque; Ryan & Tricia Aguila, Vino and Sofia; only daughter Lidie Rose; Teresa Lugue, Sr. Lilia Hilario, ICM and Corazon V. Santos.

Prayers requested for the eternal repose of his soul.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that
MR. JOSE ANTONIO Y. CARRILLO
a.k.a. "DODJIE"
whose picture appears below, is no longer connected with
ASIAN HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
since January 8, 2007

Any transactions entered into with this person will not be honored by Asian Hospital & Medical Center. Further, official receipts under series no. #10751-10800 and 10851-108600 issued by Mr. Carrillo will not be honored by Asian Hospital & Medical Center.

(PDI–March 4, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
PPL Bldg., United Nations Avenue, Manila

RE: Application for Issuance of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate in the tramp service for the carriage of oil products with the use of ship, MT "SUNRISE SAMPAGUITA", pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

TRANSNATIONAL UYENO MARITIME, INC.,
Applicant,
CASE NO. MNL-07-008
x————————————x

ORDER

This refers to Applicant, Transnational Uyeno Maritime, Inc.'s Application for Issuance of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) filed on 02 March 2007, to operate in the tramp service for the carriage of oil products with the use of the ship, **MT "SUNRISE SAMPAGUITA"**, to any port in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines or in a newspaper of local circulation, as applicable.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on **05 March 2007** at **2:30 PM** at the Hearing Room, Franchising Office, 6/F PPL Bldg., United Nations Ave., Manila, which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to submit a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), during the summary proceeding or within five (5) days from the conduct of summary proceedings, afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, **VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR.**, this 02nd day of March 2007 at Manila, Philippines.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR:

(Sgd.) **MA. CONCEPCION C. ARBOLARIO**
Officer-In-Charge
Franchising Office

(PDI--March 4, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Pangasinan State University
2401 Lingayen, Pangasinan
Website: http://www.psu.edu.ph * E-mail: psu-cc1@mozcom.com

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Regents of the Pangasinan State University formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the **PANGASINAN STATE UNIVERSITY** is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Dr. Patricio S. Faylon.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a Natural born Filipino citizen;
- A holder of an earned doctorate degree in any academic field relevant to the mission and mandate of the University;
- Must not be more than 60 years old at the time of application;
- Must have a proven track record as administrator for at least five (5) years preferably in the academe; and
- Morally upright and has no record of criminal, civil and/or administrative conviction.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal, and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines and are required to submit the following clearances:

- National Bureau of Investigation Clearance;
- Sandiganbayan Clearance;
- Civil Service Commission Clearance and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative Case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer;
- Certificate of no pending cases issued by the Court where he/she resides;
- Previous Employer's Clearance/s.

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:

- Detailed Curriculum Vitae (under oath) and authenticated/certified supporting documents;
- The applicant's proposed Vision and Thrust for the University within a four-year period;
- Result of the Neuro-Psychiatric Examination accomplished by a competent physician of a government accredited Test Center;
- Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician; and
- Under Oath CSC Form 212.

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit eight (8) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before April 03, 2007 to:

MR. MARLON N. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
Office of Commissioner S. M. OCAMPO, JR.
CHED, 5/f, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 636-1690
Telefax No (02) 636-1693

OR

MR. EMERITO J. URBANO
University/Board Secretary
Pangasinan State University
Lingayen, Pangasinan
Tel. No. (075) 542-6467
Telefax No. (075) 542-8694

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Auto industry's best honored at 3rd Coty Awards Night

WILL THE NEW CAR OF THE YEAR Philippines (Coty-P) come from the executive car category once more? Will the same truck win the Pickup of the Year title for the third consecutive year? Will a Japanese entry win the top award again, or will it be the turn of an American or European vehicle? Which car will win the Best Value for Money award?

These questions will be answered and the guessing ends when the Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi) holds the 3rd Coty-P Awards Night on March 8 starting 6:30 p.m. at the Rockwell Tent at the Plaza in Makati. The annual event will proclaim the best of what the automotive industry had to offer in 2006 in 11 categories: subcompact car, compact car, executive car, luxury car, ultra-luxury car, entry-level sport utility vehicle (SUV), luxury SUV, ultra-luxury SUV, entry-level multipurpose vehicle (MPV), luxury MPV and pickup truck. The Car of the Year is chosen from the 11 category winners.

Coty-P is organized annually by Cagi, a non-stock, non-profit group made up of motoring journalists from various print, broadcast and online media outfits. In 2005, Cagi's first year, the Honda Accord 3.0L V6 won the big trophy following six weekends of test sessions held at Eagle Ridge Golf & Country Club, Cavite in the last quarter of 2004. The following year, the Mazda6 2.3L placed first after a series of weekend tests in January-February 2006 at Forest Hills Golf & Country Club in Antipolo.

The quantitative and qualitative tests for the latest Coty-P were held over seven weekends from November 2006 to early February 2007 on a six-kilometer isolated course in Forest Hills. The quantitative segment of the tests gauged 0 to 60 kph acceleration and 60 kph-0 braking on a flat straight of 400 meters, using the latest digital US-made G-Tech unit provided by Speedlab. The tests were supervised by Applied Leisure in Sales and Operations (Also) which is made up of veteran rally racers. Also is the same outfit that sets up and oversees economy runs like the recent Petron Xtra Mile Challenge and motor sport events like the annual Honda Media Challenge.

The qualitative segment of the Coty-P test sessions had motoring journalists driving each entry to evaluate, among other things, the car's driveability, handling, riding comfort, visibility, ergonomics, safety features, lights, aircon and audio system. The course on which the quali test was conducted includes straights, twists, curves, bends, dips and steep uphill and downhill grades. This challenging test course brought out the best-or the worst-in a car's performance.

The test results are audited by Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. (SGV) before the winners are proclaimed during Awards Night.

To avoid any conflict of interest and to maintain its independence, Cagi does not seek or accept financial assistance from car manufacturers and does not charge them an entrance fee for participation in the annual Coty-P program. This year, Coty-P is supported by Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) as Road Safety Partner, Bridgestone as Performance Tire Partner, Sony Ericsson as Mobile Phone Partner, Petron as Fuel Partner and the Manila International Auto Show as Awards Night sponsor. Rockwell Land Corp, San Miguel Corp, Standard Insurance Co, the Manila North Tollways Corp, Speedlab, Forest Hills Golf & Country Club and SGV provided support in cash or kind.

ASPAC HONORS OUTSTANDING TEACHERS

Ateneo Loyola Schools Most Outstanding Teachers Dr. Soledad S. Reyes and Jose Ma. Edito K. Tirol were honored by the Ateneo Schools Parents Council (Aspac) Feb. 2 at the Gabi ng Parangal at Pasasalamat, MVP Center for Student Leadership, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Shown receiving their awards were (from left) Jose Ma. Edito K. Tirol, outstanding junior teacher, Dr. Ma. Assunta C. Cuyegkeng, VP for Loyola Schools, Ateneo de Manila University, Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres SJ, president, Ateneo de Manila University, Dr. Soledad S. Reyes, outstanding senior teacher, Josie Perez-Ang, Aspac president, and Daisy E. Mendoza, Aspac academics committee chair.

HERITAGE HOTEL, INDONESIAN EMBASSY STAGE FOOD PROMOTION

The Heritage Hotel Manila, a member of the Millennium & Copthorne Hotels & Resorts (M&C), and the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, recently inked an agreement to stage 'The Indonesian Cuisine…The Ultimate in Diversity' food promotion from March 9 to 23. Eddie Yeo, general manager, Heritage Hotel (3rd from left) and Sanusi, Minister, Deputy Chief of Mission, Indonesian Embassy (2nd from left) signed the contract. Maila Sonja Tahar, Minister Counsellor, Indonesian Embassy (left) and Gibeth Gloria, F&B manager (right), Heritage Hotel, witnessed the partnership agreement.

Security Bank opens new branches

TWO NEW SECURITY BANK branches recently opened to serve its clients in better locations in the key cities of Cabanatuan in Nueva Ecija and Zamboanga City.

Security Bank Cabanatuan branch is situated at the ground floor of Insular Life Building, Rizal Street, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija while Security Bank Zamboanga branch is located at Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City.

Local government officials, business leaders and clients were present at the inauguration followed by cocktails. Two more Security Bank branches are set to open in the first quarter of the year in Ermita and Meycauayan bringing Security Bank's expert banking closer to its customers.

Security Bank posted record 65-percent growth in earnings with a net income of P1.9 billion in 2006, more than double the industry average of 30 percent. Given its 3rd consecutive year of greater than 50-percent growth, Security Bank is one of the fastest growing universal and commercial bank in the country today.

SHOWN at the Zamboanga branch inauguration are (from left) Patricia May T. Siy, Security Bank senior vice president; Olivia Arciaga, manager, Zamboanga City Rural Bank; Rose Diu, proprietress, Simosa Marketing; Vicente Jaldon, chair, Zamboanga City Water District; Joven B. Hernandez; Security Bank senior vice president; Hon. Celso Lobregat, City Mayor, Zamboanga; Olga Ledesma, treasurer, Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative; Jose Vicente Atilano, treasurer, Philippine Blue Eagle Finance Corp; Eric T. Chiong, Security Bank Zamboanga branch business manager; and Jason T. Ang, Security Bank first vice president. At the Cabanatuan branch inauguration are senior bank executives and guests of honor (from left): Luzviminda Pine, proprietress, D'Saints Bakery; Antonia Ting, chair, A-1 Group of Companies; Ma. Theresa Villarosa; Julius Cesar Vergara, City Mayor, Cabanatuan; Leticia Uy, chair, NE Pacific Group of Companies; Marissa Yogore, proprietress, Flowerlane Montessori; Jocelyn Diaz, Security Bank Cabanatuan branch business manager; Alberto Villarosa, Security Bank president and chief executive officer. Witnessing the ribbon cutting ceremony are (from left) Joven Hernandez, Security Bank senior vice president; Primitivo Noel Lagman Jr, Security Bank first vice president; and Anastasia Dy, Security Bank executive director.

Asian Hospital to conduct diabetes symposium

TODAY, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE BEING DIAGnosed with diabetes, a chronic disorder characterized by elevated levels of blood glucose, or sugar. In a Department of Health report, an estimated 3.36 million Filipinos are now affected with this disease, making it the 9th leading cause of death in the Philippines. An alarming fact is that this number is expected to rise to about 8 million in less than 20 years.

What's more disturbing is that many Filipinos are still unaware that they have diabetes. To raise public awareness of this prevalent disease, the Asian Hospital and Medical Center will hold a symposium dubbed "Diabetes Updates: Current and Novel Approaches to Therapy" on March 8, 5 p.m., at the fourth floor training room of the hospital.

Medical practitioners are invited to attend the symposium, which will address the need to manage diabetes more effectively through the latest in research and advanced treatment. Dr. Joy Arabelle C. Fontanilla, a consultant at the Section of Endocrinology of the Department of Internal Medicine of UP-PGH, will discuss the latest concepts in diabetes management and treatment. The symposium will also be graced by medical experts from Asian Hospital in the fields of cardiology, nephrology, and neurosciences.

The symposium, which is in collaboration with the consultant alumni of the UPCM Phi Kappa Mu Fraternity and the Phi Lambda Delta Sorority, is free of charge. For registration, call Asian Hospital and Medical Center at 771-9000 to 02 local 8066 or 8073.

Coenzyme Q10 cited, recommended in Wallach Files

THE NATURAL NUTRIENT COENZYME Q10, popularly called CoQ10, has been favorably cited and recommended in the Wallach Files, which is a highly respected international information center for dietary supplements and other natural substances which have been scientifically proven to improve health.

In a comprehensive analysis of all available scientific data on CoQ10 prepared by Dr. Hemmi N. Bhagavan, a recognized authority on nutritional supplements from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the conclusions stated that: "There is sound scientific rationale for an important role for coenzyme Q10 in the maintenance of cardiovascular health in general and in the management of heart disease and in particular heart failure. Review of published literature in peer-reviewed journals on the use of coenzyme Q10 as an adjunct to conventional therapy in patients with congestive heart failure and cardiomyopathy shows that there is strong evidence in favor of significant clinical improvement with coenzyme Q10 supplementation. As a naturally occurring nutrient that is produced in the body, coenzyme Q10 has an excellent safety record and no side effects. Therefore, coenzyme Q10 supplementation as supportive therapy for patients with or at risk for congestive heart failure or cardiomyopathy is justified and appropriate, since it can afford significant clinical benefit to the patients."

The statement also added that by improving heart function and the quality of life in these patients, and by reducing the number of hospitalizations, coenzyme Q10 supplementation also has the potential to reduce overall health-care costs. Hence, it may be considered a cost-effective drug for heart failure and cardiomyopathy, a condition wherein the heart muscles become flabby and are not able to perform its pumping function adequately. Patients with heart failure and cardiomyopathy usually complain of easy fatigability, difficulty of breathing on exertion and leg edema or *manas*. Sometimes they may also have palpitations, irregular heartbeat and chest tightness. Aside from narrowing of the arteries starving the heart muscles of essential nutrients, cardiomyopathy may also be caused by excessive alcohol intake, toxic anticancer drugs, pregnancy, and nutritional deficiencies such as Beri-beri.

According to the Wallach Files study and recommendation, the weight of the evidence based upon an objective assessment of available scientific literature supports the health claim that Coenzyme Q10 supplementation may help reduce the risk for congestive heart failure and cardiomyopathy, and may be used as an adjunct to standard medical therapy. This standard therapy includes angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor and/or angiotensin receptor blocker, low-dose beta blocker; and in some cases, diuretics and digitalis. Dietary salt restriction and other lifestyle changes are also strongly recommended.

Researchers believe that the beneficial effect of CoQ10 in the prevention and treatment of heart disease is due to its ability to improve energy production in cells and its powerful antioxidant activity. Many patients with heart disease were found to have low levels of CoQ10. Giving CoQ10 to these patients with heart disease improved their outcome.

One important study showed that heart attack patients, who within three days received daily CoQ10 supplementation, were less likely to have subsequent chest pains and another heart attack. In addition, these patients were less likely to die of heart disease than those who did not receive CoQ10.

CoQ10 has also been evaluated in some studies as beneficial in patients with neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease, mitochondrial encephalomyopathies and also in migraine headaches. Trianon Coenzyme Q10 is one of the popularly prescribed and recommended preparations in the country which is available as an over-the-counter preparation in Mercury drug stores and other leading drug outlets nationwide. The recommended dose of Trianon CoQ10 is 1 to 2 of the 30-mg capsules daily.

Insular Life 'Big Time' night up to March 4 only

INSULAR LIFE, THE COUNTRY'S FIRST AND largest Filipino life insurance company, partners with the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative of the Philippines (IFCP) for a week-long celebration of Filipino artistry through an Independent Films Festival ongoing until March 4 at the Insular Life Corporate Centre Theatre in Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Internationally acclaimed indie films such as "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Olivero", "Tulad ng Dati", "Donsol" and "Big Time" will be showcased. Tickets for the festival are sold for P30 per person. Proceeds of the film festival will go to the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation Inc. or Mowelfund. For inquiries call Insular Life's customer value management department at 771-1818 locals 1318 to 1320 or public relations staff at local 1123.

Protein-energy malnutrition affects chronically ill patients

MALNUTRITION, ACCORDING TO THE World Health Organization, is the "imbalance between the supply of nutrients and energy and the body's demand for them to ensure growth, maintenance, and specific functions."

Patients with chronic diseases such as liver cirrhosis, cancer, renal ailments, and AIDS often suffer from malnutrition-specifically, protein-energy malnutrition-due to poor nutrient intake and the body's impaired ability to process food and nutrients.

In general, protein-energy malnutrition (PEM) develops in children and adults who consume insufficient protein and calories to meet the body's nutritional needs. In developing countries PEM is one of the leading causes of child mortality.

In industrialized countries such as the United States, however, PEM affects the elderly living in nursing homes and patients suffering from chronic diseases. In the United States, as many as half of patients hospitalized and 55 percent of elderly patients suffer from PEM.

Malnutrition is also common among hospitalized Filipino patients. A 1998 survey by St. Luke's Medical Center showed that among hospitalized patients, 34 percent were malnourished and 34 percent were underweight.

The consequences of PEM can be fatal. Studies have shown that if a person suffering from a chronic illness succumbs to malnutrition, a significant deterioration of body functions ensues, which adversely affects recovery. This is particularly true for those suffering from cirrhosis and other liver diseases, who have been found to have low levels of branched-chain amino acids (BCAAs) and albumin (protein) in their blood, leading to PEM.

Thus, supplementation with BCAAs is recommended for these patients.

A study by Dr. Hisataki Moriwaki and his colleagues at the Gifu University School of Medicine showed that BCAA supplementation aids in the synthesis and secretion of albumin, and improves the quality of life and survival of patients with liver cirrhosis.

Similar results were obtained by Dr. Yasutoshi Muto and his colleagues in a study published in the journal Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology. The study showed that long-term administration of BCAA supplements slows down the progression of liver failure and is associated with better survival in patients with cirrhosis.

BCCA is sold as Aminoleban by Otsuka (Philippines) Pharmaceuticals Inc.

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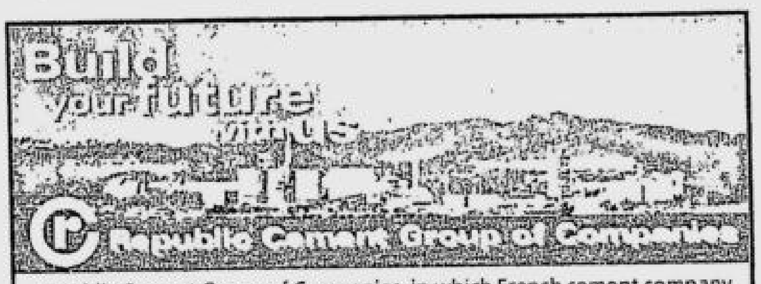

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PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

An international development organization has an immediate need for a PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST who will serve as the Health Systems Development Specialist responsible for designing and managing local level activities supported nationwide by the organization. The incumbent will work directly with the public and the private health sectors to promote sound decision making and provision of family planning services, as well as HIV/AIDS/STD and tuberculosis prevention and treatment at the local level.

S/he will be the principal designer of new activities in the local level and will have major responsibilities for the success of programs including: 1) improvement of the local government health systems nationwide; 2) Contraceptive Self Reliance; 3) programs in the conflict affected areas of Mindanao; and 4) Washington DC – based Child Survival Grants. The incumbent will also have close working relationships with senior government and private sector officials.

The candidate must meet the following qualifications:

- Master's Degree or the Philippine equivalent formal education in a field relevant to local level health systems such as public health, public and business administration, economics and other related fields. In the absence of a post-graduate degree, five years of progressively responsible, job related, professional-level experience may be substituted.
- Six to eight years of progressively responsible, professional-level experience in the indicated field of specialization.
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of local level laws and systems as they relate to the delivery of family planning and other public health services.
- Excellent command of English (both written and oral), proficiency in the use of computer, ability to develop and deliver professional quality reports and presentations, strong interpersonal and teamwork skills are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, not later than March 09, 2007 to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

WANTED

IMMIGRATION FACILITATORS!!!

- ➢ Full-time or Part-time
- ➢ Preferably with sales experience in real estate, insurance or credit cards
- ➢ Free for international travels

AMERICAN DREAM IMMIGRATION CONSULTANCY, INC.
Rm. 701 Antel Global Building
Julia Vargas corner Meralco Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 687-0176 / 916-1878 to 79
Cellphone No. 09106117194 Beth

Red Ribbon BakeShop

Our **RETIRO** and **MALOLOS** Branches are accepting applicants for

STORE SUPERVISORS

The applicant must be between 21-25 years of age, a college graduate preferably in Management and/or Marketing or any other business related course. He/She must have at least one (1) year hands-on experience in store operations and customer relations. He/She must have strong leadership potential and with excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

You may email your comprehensive resumé to rrb_retiro2000@yahoo.com.ph or apply in person with a passport-sized photo from March 5-16, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 nn at:

Red Ribbon Bakeshop - Retiro Branch
G/F Edificio Enriqueta
422 N.S. Amoranto St., (formerly Retiro)
corner D. Tuazon Ave., Sta. Mesa Heights,
Quezon City, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos. 732-7865 or 732-7867

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Build your tomorrow with us today. Join our dynamic team.

BRANCH HEADS/OPERATIONS OFFICERS (BH/BOO)

(For Metro Manila , Palawan, Bacolod, Cebu, Roxas, Tacloban, Boracay, Davao and various provincial branches)

- Not more than 45 years old.
- With a successful track record in banking specifically in the management and control of branch operations.
- Dynamic, aggressive and results-oriented.
- With strong marketing and interpersonal skills

ACCOUNT OFFICERS (AO/BC) – ASSIGNED TO

BUSINESS CENTERS (AO/BC)

(Caloocan, Greenhills, Binondo, Cebu, Iloilo, Pampanga, Zamboanga, Cagayan de Oro & Lucena)

CONSUMER LOANS (AO/CL)

(North & East Metro Manila, Binondo, Southern Tagalog to be based in Cavite or Laguna, Bicol to be based in Naga or Legaspi, Northern Luzon to be based in Dagupan, San Fernando, Pampanga, Cebu, Western Visayas to be based in Iloilo or Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro)

- Male/Female, 25-35 years old.
- Business course graduate .
- With at least 2 years work experience in Credit and Account Management.
- Analytical and with excellent marketing skills.
- Fluency in Fookien would be an advantage.

TRAINING OFFICER/TRAINING SPECIALIST (TO/TS)

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old.
- A graduate of BS Psychology/AB Behavioral Science.
- With at least 3 years experience in Corporate Training.
- With excellent oral and written communication skills.

HR OFFICER (HO)

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old.
- Has at least 3 years experience in Job Evaluation, Salary Administration; organization development.

RECRUITMENT ASSISTANT (RA)

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old.
- A graduate of BS Psychology/AB Behavioral Science.
- With excellent oral & written communication skills.

CREDIT RISK OFFICER (CRO)

- Male/Female, not more than 40 years old.
- A graduate of Accounting, Business Management, Economics or Finance.
- With at least 3 years experience in risk analysis & credit evaluation.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS OFFICER (CAO)

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old.
- Graduate of Communication Arts/Mass Communication/ Organizational Communication.
- With at least 5 years of experience in Corporate Communication
- Knowledgeable in advertising, public relations, marketing and events management.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (PDO)

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old.
- Preferably a graduate of Marketing or of a related field.
- Must have experience in product development and design/advertising.
- Fluent in oral and written communication; creative.

COLLECTION SECTION HEAD (CSH)

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old.
- With at least 3 years managerial experience in credit card business specifically in credit and collections which includes but not limited to effective implementation of collection strategies, capacity planning and MIS tracking.
- Can effectively manage third party collectors.

FINANCE SECTION HEAD (FSH)

- Male/ Female not more than 35 years old.
- With at least 3 years managerial experience in financial planning or reporting and analysis preferably in a credit card company.

ACCOUNTING SECTION HEAD (ASH)

- Male/ Female not more than 35 years old.
- With at least 3 years managerial experience in credit card accounting, abreast in reconciliation, disbursement, reimbursement, settlement, interchange and all credit card accounting processes.
- Must know how to formulate policies and procedures in accounting to conform with updated Philippine/US generally accepted accounting principles.

OTHER VACANT POSITIONS:

- **TELEMARKETER**
- **CARD PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR**
- **DOCUMENT PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR**
- **HEAD AUTHORIZER**
- **FRAUD ANALYST**
- **AUTHORIZERS**
- **VERIFIER**
- **PRE-SCREENER**
- **PHONE VERIFIER**
- **CREDIT ANALYST**

JUNIOR AUDITORS (JA)

- Male/Female, not more than 28 years old.
- Must be a CPA.
- Effective in oral and written communication.
- Analytical, results-oriented, willing to travel.

JUNIOR SYSTEMS ANALYST (JSA) – Systems & Procedures

- Male/Female, not more than 28 years old.
- Business course graduate.
- Preferably with experience.
- With excellent oral & written communication skills..

GRAPHIC ARTIST (GA)

- Male, not more than 30 years old.
- Fine Arts graduate major in Industrial Design or Advertising.
- Preferably with one year experience in graphic design.
- Skilled in Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop & Corel Draw.
- Knowledgeable in digital SLR camera photography.
- Creative, has good eye for details and organized.

MARKETING ASSISTANTS (MA)

CONSUMER LOANS

(North & East Metro Manila, Binondo, Southern Tagalog to be based in Cavite or Laguna, Bicol to be based in Naga or Legaspi, Northern Luzon to be based in Dagupan, San Fernando, Pampanga, Cebu, Western Visayas to be based in Iloilo or Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro)

MICROFINANCE – Cavite City

CREDIT CARD – Makati, Head Office

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old.
- Graduate of any Business course.
- With at least 2 years experience in sales & marketing.
- With pleasing personality.

PRODUCT SPECIALIST (PS)

- Male/Female, not more than 28 yrs. old.
- Graduate of any Business/Marketing course.
- Preferably with experience in branch banking.
- Fluent in oral and written communication.

NEW ACCOUNTS CLERKS/TELLERS (NAC/TEL)

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old.
- Business course graduate.
- With pleasing personality.
- Assertive and customer service-oriented.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS (AA)

- Male/Female, not more than 28 years old.
- BS Accountancy graduate.
- Preferably with experience.

SENIOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER – Special Projects (SSE-SP)

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old.
- Graduate of a 4-year Business or Computer-related course.
- With 3 years experience in systems analysis and design.

JUNIOR/SENIOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER – WEB-based (JSE/SSE WEB)

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old.
- Graduate of a 4-year Business or Computer-related course.
- With knowledge of PHP, PostgreSQL/MySQL, HTML, JavaScript.
- Graphics skills a plus.

JUNIOR SYSTEMS ENGINEERS – Mainframe Applications (JSE-MF)

- Male/Female, not more than 28 years old.
- Graduate of a 4-year Business or Computer-related course.
- Must be familiar with COBOL programming.

JUNIOR SYSTEMS ENGINEERS – Special Projects (JSE-SP)

- Male/Female, not more than 28 years old.
- Graduate of a 4-year Business or Computer-related course.
- Familiarity with systems administration, programming, networking an advantage.

JUNIOR SYSTEMS ENGINEERS – PC-based Applications (JSE-PC)

- Male/Female, not more than 28 years old.
- Graduate of a 4-year Business or Computer-related course.
- Must be familiar with Foxpro and Visual Basic programming.

Interested applicants for OFFICER & IT positions should send their application thru e-mail at recruitment@alliedbank.com.ph. For STAFF positions, applicants may come personally to submit their resumé, transcript of records and latest 2x2 picture on March 6 & 7, 2007, 9:00am – 12:00nn and 1:00pm – 3:00pm at the Penthouse, Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

(PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY)

URGENTLY NEEDED

A financial institution is in need of highly dynamic individuals to fill-up the following positions for its 3rd Quarter Expansion Program for 2007.

ACCOUNTING CLERK / ACCOUNT SERVICE PERSONNEL / TREASURY PERSONNEL / OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

- Male / Female; 21-25 years old
- Accounting Graduate
- Can work under pressure with minimum supervision
- Willing to be assigned in the following areas: Luzon-Metro Manila / Antipolo / Malolos/ San Fernando, La Union / Sta. Cruz, Laguna / Legaspi City / Masbate, Visayas-Cebu / Bohol / Roxas City / Iloilo City / Borongan / Catbalogan / Carcar.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Honest / Hardworking / People-Oriented
- Good in oral and written communication

Applicants may email their application letter and resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at **regz0975@yahoo.com** or faxed to **525-01-56**, you may also inquire at **528-4774** and look for Ms. Regine Evangelista (please indicate the position applied for & the area of preference)

HIRING

3D ARTIST FOR ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIORS

KNOWLEDGE IN 3D STUDIO, AUTOCADD, AND OTHER RENDERING SOFTWARE IS AN ADVANTAGE • PREFERABLY KNOWS ADOBE PHOTOSHOP AND ILLUSTRATOR.

CONTACT INOVE a.i. AT 415-1168
PLEASE SEND IN YOUR RESUMÉ AT
inove@inove.biz

For Immediate Hiring

Accounting Head

With 2 years experience, preferably C.P.A.
Salary range from
16,000 – 20,000

Send resumé to:

Kalayaan Development & Industrial Corp.
2/F OKP Bldg.,
Victory Liner Compound,
284 Samson Road,
Caloocan City
email : kdic@pldtdsl.net

CONTINUOUS HIRING!!!

Be part of a fast growing International Company... We are presently looking for qualified applicants to fill up the following positions:

Audit Staff
Accounting Clerk
Marketing Assistant / Events Organizer

- Preferably male
- Not more 30 years old
- 4 year course graduate
- Minimum 2 years work related experience
- Computer literate (with power point presentation skills)
- Can communicate well in oral and written English & Tagalog
- Personable, energetic and can work under minimum supervision
- Willing to be assigned to provincial & overseas branches
- Available for work immediately

Electrician
Electronic Technician

- TESDA graduate
- Minimum of 2 years work experience

Due to the urgency of the above positions, qualified applicants are requested to apply with their updated resumé and recent photo to:

EDMARK PHILIPPINES INC.
355 P. Tuazon Blvd., cor. 21st Ave.
Cubao, Quezon City

Or you may email us at www.edmarker.com
Previous applicants need not apply

Haellen
pharma, inc.

We're fast expanding and immediately in need of :

10 District Sales Managers (DSMs) for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao

- With solid sales experience in pharma
- Excellent supervisory skills
- Good in written/oral communication skills
- Proactive and very competitive
- At least 28 years old, male or female

30 Professional Sales Representatives (PSRs) for Ilocos, Tarlac, Pangasinan, Pampanga, Bataan, Zambales, Metro Manila, Quezon , Laguna, Naga, Legazpi, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Bohol, Samar, Leyte, Butuan, CDO, Iligan and Davao.

- With or without sales experience in pharma
- College graduates and highly trainable
- Good in written/oral communication skills
- Can work under pressure
- At least 21 years old, male or female

Send your resumes online:
at ***recruitment@mme.ph*** or submit them at the following :

MME Corporate Centre - 108 Tordesillas St., corner Gallardo St., Salcedo Villlage, Makati City, **812-7108 loc 1120 and look for Kat.**
(For Metro Manila and Luzon applicants)

MME Cebu – Unit 2-1 Sail Centre Commercial Complex, JL Briones St., NRA Cebu City, (near SM Cebu) look for **Ronnie, 032-2333064/0910-3308723.**
(For Visayas applicants)

MME Davao – 16 – D Burgos St., Obrero, Davao City, look for **Edwin, 0926-9141969**
(For Mindanao applicants)

Home Guaranty Corporation

Notice of Vacant Positions

No. of Vacant Positions	Position Title, Unit	Salary Grade	Minimum Qualification Requirements
			Course
1	Internal Auditor III, Office of the Board of Directors	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Commerce / Management / Economics or other related courses
1	Executive Vice President, Office of the President	29	Bachelor's Degree in Banking and Finance, Business Administration, Actuarial Science, Management, Accountancy, Marketing, Economics, or any other related course, preferably with Master's Units/Degree in a related course
1	Department Manager III, Corporate Planning Department	26	Bachelor's Degree in Economics / Industrial Engineering / Urban Planning or other related courses; preferably with Masters Units/Degree in a related course
1	Supervising Planning Specialist, Corporate Planning Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Economics / Industrial Engineering / Urban Planning or other related courses, preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Planning Specialist, Corporate Plannning Department	16	Bachelor's Degree in Economics / Industrial Engineering / Urban Planning or other related courses
1	Planning Analyst, Corporate Planning Department	13	Bachelor's Degree
1	Information System Analyst I, MIS Department	16	Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science / Computer Engineering / Information Technology or other related courses
1	Department Manager III, Litigation Department	26	Bachelor of Laws; RA 1080; preferably with Master's Units/Degree in a related course
3	Corporate Attorney IV, Litigation Department	23	Bachelor of Laws; RA 1080, preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Corporate Attorney V, Legal Services Department	25	Bachelor of Laws; RA 1080; Master's Degree in a related course
2	Corporate Attorney IV, Legal Services Department	23	Bachelor of Laws; RA 1080; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
2	Supervising Credit Guaranty Specialist, Business Dev. & Accts. Eval. Dept.	20	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
2	Senior Credit Guaranty Specialist, Business Dev. & Accts. Eval. Dept.	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
3	Credit Guaranty Specialist, Business Dev. & Accts. Eval. Dept.	15	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
1	Supervising Credit Guaranty Specialist, Accounts Management Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses, preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Senior Credit Guaranty Specialist, Accounts Management Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
1	Department Manager III, Risk Management Department	26	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses; preferably with Master's Units/Degree in a related course
1	Senior Credit Guaranty Specialist , Risk Management Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
3	Credit Guaranty Specialist , Risk Management Department	15	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
1	Acquired Assets Officer V, Asset Management Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Engineering / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Supervising Marketing Specialist, Marketing & Sales Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Engineering / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Senior Marketing Specialist, Marketing & Sales Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Engineering / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
1	Marketing Specialist, Marketing & Sales Department	15	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Engineering / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
1	Supervising Trading Specialist, Treasury Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Commerce / Bus. Administration and / or other related courses; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Senior Accounts Specialist, Treasury Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Commerce / Bus. Administration and / or other related courses
1	Department Manager III, Controllership Department	26	Bachelor's Degree in Commerce / Bus. Administration major in Accounting, preferably with Master's Units/Degree in a related course, CPA
1	Accountant IV, Controllership Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Commerce / Bus. Administration major in Accounting; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course, CPA
2	Accountant III, Controllership Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Commerce / Bus. Administration major in Accounting; CPA
1	Accounting Specialist II, Controllership Department	15	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Commerce / Economics / Actuarial Science or other related courses
1	Budget Officer III, Controllership Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Commerce / Economics / Actuarial Science or other related courses
1	Department Manager III, Human Resources Department	26	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / Public Administration / Industrial Management / Psychology or other related courses, preferably with Master's Units/Degree in a related course
1	Training Specialist IV, Human Resources Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / Public Administration / Industrial Management / Psychology or other related courses preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Human Resource Management Officer IV, Human Resources Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / Public Administration / Industrial Management / Psychology or other related courses preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Human Resource Management Officer III, Human Resources Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / Public Administration / Industrial Management / Psychology or other related courses
1	Human Resource Management Officer II, Human Resources Department	15	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / Public Administration / Industrial Management / Psychology or other related courses
45	Total No. of Vacant Positions		

- **In addition to the above qualifications, interested applicants must also possess the following:**

Salary Grade	Civil Service Eligibility	Years of Relevant Experience	
		Area of Specialization	Managerial / Supervisory
29	Career Executive Service Officer / Eligible	7	5
26	Career Executive Service Officer / Eligible	5	3
20 - 25	2nd Level (Professional) Eligibility or RA 1080, if required	3	-
16 - 18	2nd Level (Professional) Eligibility or RA 1080, if required	2	-
13 - 15	2nd Level (Professional) Eligibility	1	-

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumés, together with a description of the duties and responsibilities in their previous employment/s, not later than March 30, 2007, to:

THE PERSONNEL PLACEMENT COMMITTEE
c/o Ms. Corazon G. Corpuz
Office of the Vice President, Corporate Services Group
Home Guaranty Corporation
335 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

NOTICE OF VACANCY

SR. INVESTMENTS PLANNER

BS Commerce pref. CPA or with MBA; at least 2 yrs. exp. in investments strategy planning, development, & management; at least 8 hrs. relevant training

RISK MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

Pref. business-related degree; at least 1 yr. exp. in credit policy & risk management research & development; familiar w/ financial statements & reports presentation; at least 4 hrs. relevant training

RESEARCH SPECIALIST

Business, Economics/related discipline; at least 1 yr. exp. in policy-related research & industry studies; at least 8 hrs. training on research methods & analysis

ACCOUNT OFFICERS

(MAKATI/CEBU/CAGAYAN DE ORO/GEN. SANTOS)
Business-related degree; at least 1 yr. exp. in credit evaluation & monitoring; knowledgeable in financial projects & analysis, & MS Office applications; pref. resident of area applying for; willing to travel within the assigned area

CI / APPRAISER

Relevant bachelor's degree; at least 1 yr. exp. in property appraisal pref. gained from banks/similar financial institutions; pref. licensed appraiser

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Business, Development Communication or Social Science; at least 1 yr. relevant exp. pref. gained government entity; excellent planning & communication skills

BUDGET CLERK

BS Accountancy, at least 1 yr. exp. in assisting budget preparation; MS Office applications efficient

PROPERTY CLERK

Male; business-related degree; at least 1 yr. relevant exp; w/ prof. driver's license

**All vacancies require CSC Professional Eligibility*

Small Business Guarantee & Finance Corp. - HRD
17F 139 Corporate Center 139 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.
Email: jpelingon@sbgfc.org.ph
Tel. 751-1888 x 1705

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

By TEXTILE DYEING/FINISHING PLANT

DYEING DIVISION HEAD

- M/F 35 years old and above
- With 5 years experience as DDH
- Graduate of Chemical Engineering B.S. Chemistry
- Salary Negotiable

MATCHING CHEMIST

- M/F 21 years old & above
- Graduate of Chemical Engineering or B.S. Chemistry
- Exp. & Exposure in Textile Knitted Fabrics

DYEING SUPERVISORS

- M/F 35 years old & above
- 3-5 years Exp. & Exposure in knitted fabrics, is a MUST.
- College Graduate/College Level

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

(Based for Manila Office)

- Female 35 years old & above
- CPA Licensed
- With at least 5 years Exp. in manufacturing set-up
- Must be proficient in filing periodic gov't reports such as: SSS, ITR, Pag-IBIG, SEC and others
- Initial interview be held at Valenzuela office.

Apply personally in:
Crayons Processing Incorporated
#6 MGM Compound, P. dela Cruz St.,
Bagbaguin, Valenzuela City
Tel. # 9378803 & CP # 0917-8903177
email: albert_ong_cpi@msn.com

JIMEC GLOBAL HOLDINGS INC

is experiencing tremendous growth and expansion in the field of Information and Communications Technology.

In order to meet the demands that such growth inevitably brings, we are looking for energetic, highly trained and highly self-motivated candidates to fill our entry level positions.

Sales and Marketing Coordinators	*- 10*
Graphic Artists / Web Designers	*- 6*
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Flash Animators / Developers	*- 3*
System Analysts	*- 3*
Network Technicians	*- 7*
Computer Technologists	*- 5*
Accountant	*- 1*

You may submit your application thru
E-mail-*hrd.jimec@gmail.com/hrd@jimec.ph*
(Please indicate position as your email subject)
or
Call Jenny @ Tel. Nos. 893-4496 or 893-4137

OIL SPILL RESPONSE and EAST ASIA RESPONSE LIMITED

With an established base in Asia Pacific and headquartered in UK, we have a reputation for professional and competent teams of specialists with a wealth of operating experience to provide an unrivalled range of environmental, emergency oil spill response management and preparedness solutions.

Our teams of spill response managers, environmental, chemical and marine engineers together with mechanical and logistics specialists can engage and provide a total solution to oil spill emergencies. We undertake a variety of oil spill response preparedness and oil industry projects worldwide. We also provide an extensive range of training services to the Industry and the governments as well as dedicated consultancy services from preparation of oil spill contingency plans to implementation of associated environmental impact assessments. The Company also facilitates presentation of outstanding projects and papers in international seminars and conferences.

We are looking for dynamic and motivated self starters with good communication and presentation skills in English. Bilingual ability will be an advantage. Preference will be given to team players who are highly adaptable to multiple demands, shifting priorities and rapid changes.

We invite you to join us at our Premier Oil Spill Response Centre!

Oil Spill Specialist – Marine Engineers / Deck Officers

Key Responsibilities:

- Lead a team of Responders on our spill response catamarans and in-chartered vessels
- Strategize and deploy incident action plans in the field
- Provide support to the team on marine matters during planning and exercises

Requirements:

- Marine Certificate of Competency
- Sailing experience preferably on oil, gas or chemical carriers
- Good mechanical skills able to carry out planned maintenance on equipment like pumps, hydraulic power packs and shipboard machineries

Oil Spill Specialist – Mechanical Engineers

Key Responsibilities:

- Head a team of technicians in the maintenance of specialist oil spill response equipment and ensuring minimum equipment downtime
- Conduct efficiency studies on equipment storage and deployment to minimise bottlenecks and shorten lead times
- Act as an Operations / Planning / Logistics Chief in an Incident Command System structure during an emergency response or crisis

Requirements:

- Minimum degree in Mechanical Engineering
- Good knowledge of hydraulic and mechanical equipment and systems
- 1 – 2 years working experience in the Oil, Petrochemical or Chemical Industry

OSRL / EARL offers an attractive remuneration package commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Please email your full resumé including your present and expected salary and contact details together with a recent photograph to:

zerlinatoh@osrlearl.com

Oil Spill Response and East Asia Response Ltd
Closing date: 20 March 2007

COMITE INTERNATIONAL GENEVE
ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

The ICRC Delegation to the Philippines is looking for a suitable candidate to fill our vacancy for:

STATISTICIAN

REQUIREMENTS:

- University degree
- At least 2 years work experience in a similar function (former experience in an NGO / International or Inter-Governmental Organizations / Governmental Agencies an advantage)
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Good analytical skills
- Very good computer skills, including spreadsheets and ICRC standard software
- Ability to work with people from various cultures
- Driving license for at least one year
- Team spirit (Department encompassing, as of today, 6 staff members)
- Flexibility and commitment in times of emergency
- Capacity to apply ICRC rules and procedures

MAIN TASKS:

- Set-up statistics
- Establishes and implements tools for various statistical purposes
- Performs various data processing and statistics independently
- Carries out financial translations
- Ensures follow-up and updates of specific files/databases

Assets:

- Previous experience working within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and/or other international humanitarian organisations,
- Strongly motivated to humanitarian work

What we offer:

- Good compensation package
- Interesting and rewarding work
- Humanitarian and international environment

Qualified applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resumé, recent NBI clearance and explain in their covering letter their motivation and interest in the position as well as salary expectation to the address below not later than **15 March 2007** to:

The Administrator, ICRC, 5th Floor, Erechem Bldg., Salcedo corner VA Rufino Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City or by email: **icrc_manila@yahoo.com.ph**

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

MICROFINANCE Project needs:

BOOKKEEPERS

- Preferably Accounting Graduate
- 21-28 years old; w/ or w/o experience
- hardworking & honest

LOAN OFFICERS

- College Grad/Undergrad. of any course
- 21-28 yrs. old; w/ or w/o experience
- willing to serve the poor, hardworking, honest

Apply with resumé & NBI Clearance at:
#9 Don Rafael St., Don Enrique Hts.
Holy Spirit, Q.C.
Tel. 931-4335 (Reza)

EIGENTECH Corporation

is in need of:

- ❖ CIVIL ENGINEERS
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Unit 5AB, 5th Floor, A&M Building,
9 Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City
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Tel. Nos.: 427-8520 or 427-1896
eigentech@info.com.ph

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- Draft a variety of standard project-related correspondence;
- Coordinate team schedules, meetings, appointments, etc. and communicate the information to staff and/or external clients;
- Undertake standard logistical preparations for meetings and/or workshops (transportation, meeting rooms/venue, reproduction of documents, preparation of briefing kit, etc.)
- Organize mission activities which include preparation/updating of mission itineraries and briefing materials, coordination of meeting schedule, travel, and security arrangements, etc.;
- Tracks key milestones and alerts Task Team Leaders on the task's timelines, deliverables, budget status, etc.
- Participate in selected mission activities such as meetings and field work;
- Attend meetings, draft minutes and ensure timely clearance and distribution;
- Keep track of paper flow and maintain up to date unit and project files;
- Respond effectively and in timely manner to information requests and demands from external clients and partners, and from other units within the Bank, as and when appropriate; and
- Undertake ad hoc inquiries in standard and non-standard databases, retrieves, manipulates and presents data.

Selection Criteria:

- Bachelor's Degree in Business, Economics or any other relevant field;
- Minimum five (5) years of relevant experience in providing office and administrative support to development projects;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English and Filipino;
- High level of proficiency in Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Database programs);
- Thorough working knowledge of general office procedures, machines and equipment;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, ability to establish and maintain excellent work relations in a team environment;
- High degree of initiative, flexibility and resourcefulness with a drive for efficiency and results; and
- Excellent organizational skills, ability to prioritize assignment and work effectively under pressure with minimum supervision.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resumé with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than March 19, 2007. **Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.** Send the above to:

The Human Resource Officer
Box 300 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City

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Our Philippine Reservations Center is looking for:

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES / RESERVATION SALES AGENTS
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Job summary

- Represents the Company by coordinating all aspects of Priority Club Programs and serves as liaison between the guest and hotels in order to maintain member satisfaction
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Requirements

- Must be a Bachelor/College degree holder
- Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills with one of the following languages: English, Spanish, Korean, Arabic or Japanese*
- Customer service and/or sales experience an advantage
- Education and experience in the hospitality or IT industry an advantage
- Must be willing to work on a rotating shift
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

* *Japanese-speaking CSR's must be native speakers and will be working on day shift*

Please send your resumés to:

Address: 29/F, Tower II, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Ave, Makati City

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Fax: 8578881
Email: phlro.resumes@ihg.com
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The PHINMA Education Network,
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seeks to hire the following:

PRODUCT MANAGER

We are looking for candidates with the following basic qualifications:

- Female, 26-35 years old
- College Graduate (Marketing, Business Administration, Communication or other related business courses)
- At least 5 years work experience in brand management in fast moving consumer goods or in foodservice business.
- Has supervisory and/or management experience

The candidate's job description includes the following:

- Must be capable of undertaking consumer understanding programs, brand equity management, brand innovation, customer management interaction and adoption and application of best practices where candidate is from.
- Must be able and willing to work in the education environment and apply the necessary acquired marketing professional skills into the business.
- Shall functionally report to the Chief Marketing Officer.

ACADEMICS OFFICER

We are looking for candidates with the following basic qualifications:

- With at least 4 years experience in teaching or school management
- With at least 1 year experience in managing the training process
- IT-literate and proficient in electronic worksheets
- Preferably with MBA

The candidate's job description includes the following:

- Shall have overall responsibility on Faculty and Program/Curriculum Development
- Shall coordinate Faculty Development of the Education network, as well as projects of the Academics Department
- Will conduct studies on opportunities for efficiency in the academic operations of schools
- Will consult with the Chief Operating Officers, College Deans, Faculty and Academic Affairs and Administrative Services Manager
- Shall functionally report to the Business Unit Head for Education

Interested parties may contact:

Ms. Caroline M. Castro
PHINMA Education Network
12/f PHINMA Plaza,
39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City
Tel: 870-0494 Fax: 870-0466
Email: cmcastro@phinma.com.ph

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3rd Engr	from US$2,640. –	10 mos. Contract
Electrician	from US$3,019. –	10 mos. Contract
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Ck/B (AB/Ck)	from US$1,067. –	10 mos. Contract
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Galant Maritime Services, Inc.
1101 Ermita Center Building
1350 Roxas Boulevard,
Ermita, Manila
PIC: C/M Norman Miranda
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e-mail: recruitment_galant@marlow.com.ph
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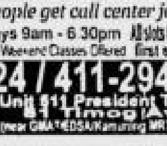

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IIRR

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) is an international action research and training institute with more than 80 years of grassroots field experience in rural community development in Africa, Asia and Latin America. IIRR works with the poor and their communities to release their potentials to effect meaningful change in their own lives and overcome poverty. At present, IIRR seeks highly qualified professionals for the following posts:

Program Specialist, Training and Capacity Development

The Program Specialist, Training and Capacity Development is responsible for planning and effective implementation of international training courses, customized courses and study programs, community education activities and other capacity development initiatives in accordance with program plans, goals and objectives. The post is responsible for formulating capacity development frameworks and systems for integrating gender in various technical areas relevant to IIRR's program priorities.

Candidates should have a degree in development management, education, agriculture or other related discipline (master's degree preferred); at least five (5) years experience working with agencies on capacity development, training, institutional development or gender and development, preferably within a rural development framework; excellent written and oral communication skills in English; strong analytical skills; demonstrated ability in conceptual and operational skills suited to rural development programs and projects; knowledge or experience in action research methodologies; familiarity with methods, tools and techniques in participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation; team player and ability to work productively with teams; ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary and multicultural work environment; and computer proficiency.

Program Specialist, Development Communication

The Program Specialist, Development Communication manages the work of IIRR in the documentation and communication of development learning, and in the production of information, education and communication materials for innovative rural development programs. The post involves documenting experiences from learning communities as inputs to developing communication strategies and IEC materials (including videos, posters, booklets, pamphlets, brochures, etc.) in support of IIRR's field programs in Asia.

Candidates should have a degree in development communication, sociology, rural development or other related discipline (master's degree preferred); at least five (5) years experience in development communication with international development agencies, NGOs or with rural communities; minimum of three (3) years of relevant experience in communications program management; demonstrated effective writing and communication skills in English; with professional research experience, preferably in action research; demonstrated ability to work with people and organizations in communities; team player and ability to work productively with teams; ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary and multicultural work environment; and computer proficiency.

Executive Assistant, Office of the President

The Executive Assistant provides administrative, logistical and clerical support to the Office of the President and ensures availability of sufficient and timely information for decision-making and appropriate action. The post maintains an effective system of documenting, filing, storage and retrieval of reports, proposals, grant agreements, correspondences and other materials. The post holder coordinates with internal and external parties for sharing and obtaining relevant information and for following up on specific action items.

Candidates should have a degree in a relevant discipline; minimum of four (4) years experience in a similar or related capacity; well versed in Windows-based software, especially the MS Office environment; effective oral and written communication skills; with operating knowledge of ICT tools; demonstrated knowledge of database management; familiarity with local and international travel arrangements; and ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary and multicultural work environment.

Administrative Assistant, Regional Center for Asia

The Administrative Assistant is responsible for providing administrative and logistical support in planning, implementing and evaluating program and management activities at the Regional Center for Asia. The post involves providing relevant information and support services to program strategic and operational teams based on identified administrative requirements.

Candidates should have a college degree in a relevant discipline; minimum of three (3) years experience in the same or similar capacity; proficient in Windows-based software, especially the MS Office environment; effective written and communication skills in English (knowledge of one or more Philippine regional languages an advantage); demonstrated experience in working with email systems, internet, fax machines or other similar communication tools; operating knowledge of database management; familiarity with local and international travel arrangements; and ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary and multicultural work environment.

Qualified women are encouraged to apply. Candidates should submit (1) a letter of application; (2) a curriculum vitae; (3) contact information (telephone, email); and (4) three letters of references with address and contact email/phone numbers not later than **March 16, 2007** to:

The Human Resources Office
International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
Km. 39, Aguinaldo Highway, Silang, 4118, Cavite
Telefax: (046) 414-2417; (02) 886-4385
E-Mail: HumanResources@iirr.org
Website: www.iirr.org

We will respond only to short-listed candidates.

IIRR is an equal opportunity employer.

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Possible candidate will be

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Candidates must be good in

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There are four things that candidates will need to learn

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Mr. Ian R. Garcia - Admin./Personnel Manager
ian.garcia@tsmphil.com.ph
TSM HOUSE 1747 Dian St., Palanan, Makati City
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3. Science Teacher
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5. English-Reading Teacher

• SPD DEPARTMENT

1. High School Personality Development Teacher
2. English Teacher
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• IT DEPARTMENT

1. Teachers

• NTOP DEPARTMENT

1. Bookkeeper / Accountant
2. School Nurse

Apply in person or email your resume to:

THE ADMINISTRATOR
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729-7674 / 729-7675 / 8876850
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Tel. # 047-252-7613; 0921-7415887 (look for Cheryl)
Fax # 047-252-2712
Email: chryl_sls@yahoo.com

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Email: thegymteam@gmail.com
Mail: Gymnastics, Ground Level,
Paseo 3, Paseo de Sta. Rosa,
Sta. Rosa, Laguna

Gymnastics

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- Skilled in Photoshop, Illustrator, Dreamweaver and/or Flash
- Familiarity with HTML, CSS, DHTML, Flash design and animation and rich media content.

Interested Applicants may apply at:
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nmec@info.com.ph or **rose_nadin12@yahoo.com**
Not later than ***March 9, 2007.***

Spa Asia

www.spaasia.com

A leading Spa and Wellness magazine with readership footprint covering the Asia–Pacific is looking for a dedicated individual with great drive to fill the following positions. The person must be able to see him/her self as part of an exciting team that is spearheading trends and changes in the world of wellness and spa. One who is willing to work beyond the norm would be preferred.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CEO	SALES ADMIN ASSISTANT
• Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in any business field with at least 4 years relevant working experience • Provides executive coordination, research and support • Exceptional written and verbal communication skills are essential • Pro-active, self-motivated, organized, energetic and has the ability to work independently • Able to handle pressure and willing to work within tight deadlines given • Must be willing to travel extensively • Must be computer literate	• Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in Sales, Marketing, Commerce or equivalent with at least 4 years relevant working experience • Knowledge in Strategic Planning & Marketing is an advantage • To attend to sales enquiries, administrative duties & customer service • Pro-active, self-motivated, organized, energetic and has the ability to work independently • Exceptional written and verbal communication skills are essential • Able to handle pressure and willing to work within tight deadlines given • Must be computer literate

Interested candidates please apply online at *careersph@spaasia.com.*
Only shortlisted candidates will be notified

GHD CLIENTS|PEOPLE|PERFORMANCE

GHD is an international professional services company. Our people deliver innovative solutions by combining technical skill and experience with an understanding of our clients' objectives and aspirations.

Located in 12 countries with an integrated network of 60 plus offices throughout Australia, Asia, New Zealand, the Middle East, the America's and the United Kingdom, we employ over 4,700 people delivering solutions for clients across the Infrastructure, Mining & Industry, Defence, Property & Buildings and the Environment sectors.

At the heart of our business are forward-thinking designers, architects, engineers, drafters, planners, surveyors, scientists, management consultants and economists, to name a few. Our people are a group of distinctive professionals who share a passion for problem solving. Rising to the challenges presented, our people prosper in an environment of collaboration and teamwork.

GHD has achieved remarkable growth internationally throughout the last year; due to this expansion we are currently recruiting for our **Manila** and **Middle East** offices (Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha).

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PRN 71020
Landscape Architects

Degree qualified with a minimum of 5 years landscape design and project management experience. Demonstrated skills in documentation, construction and administration process. Experience with digital tools such as Microsoft Suite, AutoCAD, Photoshop and Illustrator.

PRN 71021
Environmental Scientists

Degree qualified with a minimum of 5 years experience in one or more environmental disciplines, including natural or biological sciences. Demonstrated skills in undertaking environmental assessment, monitoring, auditing and/or contaminated land projects.

At GHD we focus on creating wealth and opportunity for our clients and our customers by delivering projects that meet or exceed expectations.

PRN 71022
Senior Civil Engineers

Degree qualified, minimum 10 years infrastructure design experience. Will oversee design documentation and liaise with clients. Strong technical skills combined with the experience to ensure the successful delivery of civil and land development projects.

PRN 71023 Civil Engineers

Degree qualified, minimum 5 years experience in design, documentation and preparation of specifications for roads, utilities and general civil works. Have a working knowledge of MX, 12D or similar design software, and the ability to liaise and coordinate with technical staff and other disciplines.

PRN 71024 Civil Designers

Minimum 5 years design experience in MX, 12D or similar design software, and AutoCAD. Ability to coordinate drafting teams for general civil works.

PRN 71025 Civil Drafters

Minimum of 5 years design experience with extensive use of AutoCAD, including land development, roads, drainage, water and wastewater systems. Ability to work with minimum supervision.

We look beyond traditional approaches to develop highly functional, cost efficient alternatives for our clients.

PRN 71026
Senior Structural Engineers

Degree qualified, minimum 10 years experience, in the design and documentation of reinforced concrete and steel structures. Experience with post tensioning in commercial and industrial projects also an advantage. Demonstrated business acumen, team leadership, and drive for results are essential.

PRN 71027
Senior Electrical Engineer

Degree qualified, minimum 10 years experience in the design, commissioning and operation of electrical systems for buildings, industrial plants, and land development projects. Ability to effectively communicate and manage people within multi disciplinary projects.

PRN 71028
Senior Mechanical Engineer

Degree qualified, minimum 10 years experience in the design, commissioning and operation of HVAC systems for buildings and/or pumps and mechanical systems for industrial plants. Strong technical skills combined with ability to lead and mentor a professional design team.

Our people embrace the values that have sustained the company since its inception - Teamwork, Respect and Integrity.

PRN 71029
Senior Water Engineers

Degree qualified, minimum 10 years experience in the design of major water projects. Experience in the investigation, design and management of wastewater systems an advantage. Strong communication and team leadership skills.

PRN 71030
Water Engineers

Degree qualified, minimum 5 years design experience. Knowledge of current construction and design standards. Experience in the use of water and/or wastewater modeling software, such as Infoworks WS, Water CAD and EPANET.

PRN 71031
Senior Irrigation Engineer

Degree qualified, minimum 10 years experience. Has extensive knowledge of master planning, concept through to detailed design and documentation of irrigation systems in arid and tropical climates. Will have strong project management and team leadership skills.

If you are interested in any of these positions please apply via **www.ghd.com.au/careers** quoting the relevant PRN number and your preference for work in our **Manila or Middle East** offices. Applications for these positions close on **10 March 2007**.

World Vision International

World Vision

A Christian relief and development organization, is setting up a global Financial Reporting Service Center (FRSC) and is currently looking for candidates who will fill the following positions:

Global Finance Consolidation Manager

Leading and managing the delivery and submissions of financial reports in compliance with audit requirements.

Qualities:

- Has an experience as Finance Manager for External Audit (or equivalent)
- Experience in SunSystems and Vision Reporting Tool (including designing reports using the tool)
- Advanced technical skills in using MS Excel, Powerpoint; databases such as MS Access

Qualities helpful but not required:

- Experience in int'l/multi-currency environment
- NGO experience & w/ accounting/managing grants
- Skills as trainer and coach in cross-cultural context
- Experience working in Lotus Notes
- Ability to learn and use Monarch

Financial Analyst (Spanish Speaking)

Will be doing analysis, compiling/consolidating of financial information; provide analysis and following up on inquiries; prepare analysis of financial reports; coordinate with Spanish speaking offices in Latin America.

Qualities:

- Has an experience as a Financial Analyst
- Advanced technical skills in using MS Excel,, Powerpoint; databases such as MS Access
- Knowledgeable in SunSystems, Vision Report Writer
- Good technical finance background
- Fluency in **Spanish** is required

Qualities helpful but not required:

- Experience in int'l /multi-currency environment
- Knowledge in using business intelligence software
- NGO experience & with accounting/managing grants
- Skills as a trainer and coach in cross-cultural context
- Experience working in Lotus Notes
- Ability to learn and use Monarch

Assistant Finance Analyst

Will assist in data gathering, consolidation, and analysis of financial reports.

Qualities:

- Has an experience in consolidation and analysis of financial data
- Experience in SunSystems and Vision Reporting Tool for SunSystems
- Knowledgeable in MS Word, Excel, Access
- Good communication skills

Qualities helpful but not required:

- Experience in int'l /multi-currency environment
- NGO experience & w/ accounting/managing grants
- Experience working in Lotus Notes
- Ability to learn and use Monarch

Requirements necessary for all the positions:

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, preferably CPA.
- Strong Christian commitment as evidenced by life & character.
- Flexibility and ability to work independently without significant supervision.
- Able to work in virtual/int'l environment dealing with clients & supervisor by phone, internet, Skype, etc.

Please send your CV by e-mail at **cristy_logronio@wvi.org**
on or before March 16, 2007.

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified. Phone inquiries will not be entertained.

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progressive.clinic@pldtdsl.net

ACCOUNTANTS

- Female, 25 to 35 years old
- BS Accounting Graduate
- Computer Literate
- At least with experience in Gen. Acctg. particularly at financial reports

Send your resumé w/ 2x2 Picture through mail at:

The Head of the Personnel Department
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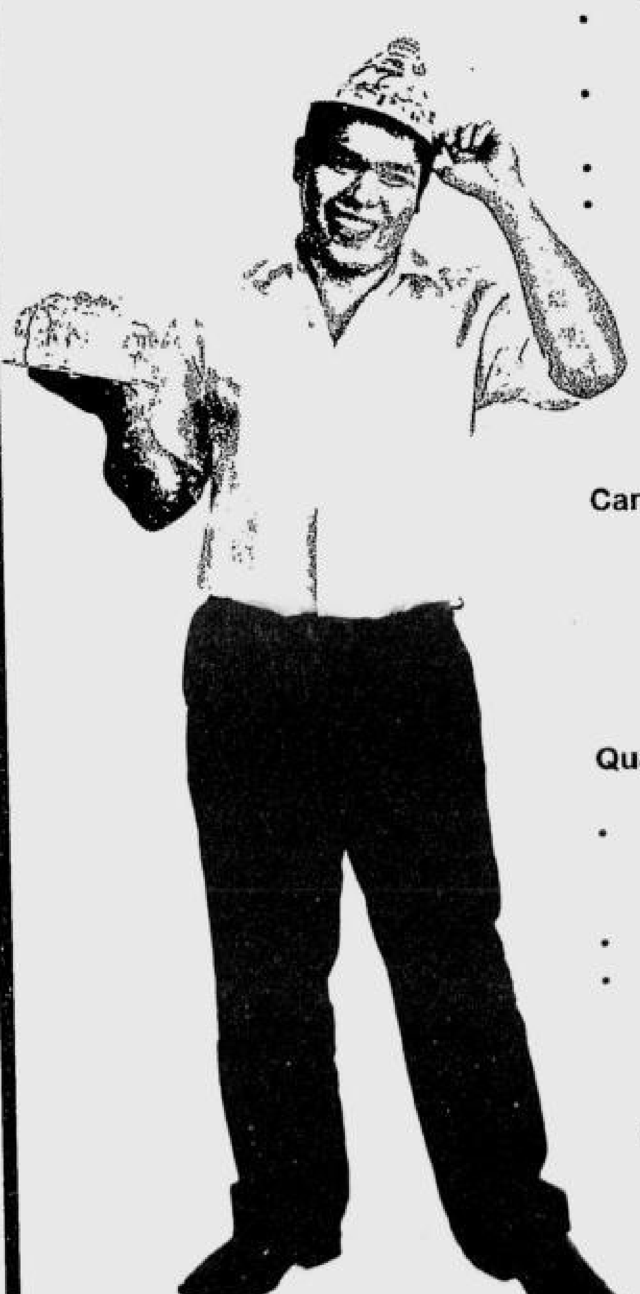

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VACANT POSITIONS

REGION 13 : AGENCY : DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
POSITION : **SCIENCE RESEARCH SPECIALIST II** (8 VACANCIES)
PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT : RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT DIVISION, NATURAL GAS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION, LIGHTING AND APPLIANCE TESTING DIVISION, OIL INDUSTRY COMPETITION AND MONITORING DIVISION
ITEM NUMBER : OSEC-DOEB-SRAS2-56, 57, 128, 131, 7, 124, 28, 29-2002
SALARY GRADE : 16
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
EDUCATION : BACHELOR'S DEGREE RELEVANT TO THE JOB
EXPERIENCE : 1 YEAR OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
TRAINING : 4 HOURS OF RELEVANT TRAINING
ELIGIBILITY : CS PROFESSIONAL, SECOND LEVEL ELIGIBILITY

REGION 13: AGENCY : DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
POSITION : **SENIOR SCIENCE RESEARCH SPECIALIST** (2 VACANCIES)
PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT : INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION, ENERGY COOPERATION AND COORDINATION DIVISION
ITEM NUMBER : OSEC-DOEB-SRSRS-6, 23-2002
SALARY GRADE : 19
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
EDUCATION : BACHELOR'S DEGREE RELEVANT TO THE JOB
EXPERIENCE : TWO YEARS OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
TRAINING : EIGHT HOURS OF RELEVANT TRAINING
ELIGIBILITY : CS PROFESSIONAL, SECOND LEVEL ELIGIBILITY

REGION 13: AGENCY : DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
POSITION : **SCIENCE RESEARCH SPECIALIST I** (2 VACANCIES)
PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT: LIGHTING AND APPLIANCE TESTING DIVISION, GEOSCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND FUEL TESTING DIVISION
ITEM NUMBER : OSEC-DOEB-SRAS1-25, 22-2002
SALARY GRADE : 13
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
EDUCATION : BACHELOR'S DEGREE RELEVANT TO THE JOB
EXPERIENCE : NONE REQUIRED
TRAINING : NONE REQUIRED
ELIGIBILITY : CS PROFESSIONAL, SECOND LEVEL ELIGIBILITY

All application letters and comprehensive resumés with passport size picture should be submitted to the Human Resource Management Division, Administrative Service, Department of Energy, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. For further inquiries, please call 840-1401 to 21 locs. 354/217 or through e-mail c/o **ebalaoing@doe.gov.ph** no later than 19 March 2007.

PMC BanCorp Manila Inc.

PMC BanCorp, a leading mortgage lender in California, USA is expanding its business in Pasig City. PMC Bancorp Manila Inc. is looking to extensively train hardworking & self-motivated individuals who want to grow with the company.

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SALES ACCOUNT OFFICER

- Male, not more than 25 years old
- Graduate of any 4 years Business Course
- With at least 2 years relevant sales experience.
- Computer literate and a licensed driver
- Should be customer oriented, flexible, excellent in communication, negotiation and presentation skills.
- Willing to do intensive field work and be based in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

IT SPECIALIST (System & Software Analyst)

- Graduate of BS Computer Science or any 4-year IT course
- Proficient in programming using MS Visual Basic in a client-server setup
- Familiar with MS SQL Server
- Strong technical background throughout the system development cycle
- Should be keen, resourceful, and flexible
- Willing to be based in Alabang, Muntinlupa

Interested applicants are requested to submit their letter of application, curriculum vitae with 2x2 picture, and transcript of records at the YKK Philippines, Inc. Head Office in 17th Flr. Richville Corporate Tower, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City or at YKK Factory in San Bartolome, Sto. Tomas, Batangas or fax it at (043) 778-2220 or (02) 807-8660 or e-mail us at **training@ykk.com.ph**

Previous applicants need not apply. Only qualified candidates shall be scheduled for interview.

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- **Sales Specialist** College graduates with inherent technical intelligence, at least five years selling experience from big local and multi-national companies with very good negotiation skills.
- **Sales Coordinator** Female, graduate of marketing, business administration or any science-related course. Sales driven and customer oriented. With pleasing personality and exhibit perseverance.
- **Service Engineers** Male, graduates of E.C.E. or E.E. courses with above average knowledge of electro-mechanical systems, PLC's and instrumentation controls. Hired applicants with above average work performance during employment will merit further training in our principals' facilities abroad.

All applicants must be below 35 years old, graduates of reputable institution, good interpersonal and intrapersonal skills, hardworking, above average computer literacy and with good oral and written communication skills.

Send your resumes with photos by: Fax: 6877591 or 6877589 after office hrs. or email to admin@mta.net.ph

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- Generate new revenue through sales of advertising placements and event sponsorships according to set company quotas
  - ○ Prospecting
  - ○ Conduct of sales presentations
  - ○ Development of proposals
  - ○ Negotiation/Closing
- Account Management
- Participation in marketing initiatives/events

REQUIREMENTS:

- Male/Female, 21 to 30 years old
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Business Studies/Advertising/Management, Sales & Marketing, or equivalent
- Highly motivated, a team player, with good communication, negotiation and presentation skills, thrives under pressure and can work with minimal supervision
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City and do field work
- Preferably has at least 1 year experience in Corporate Sales/Advertising/ Publication

PRINT PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

The Print Production Assistant will be directly involved in the scheduling, organization, supervision, monitoring and approval of the publication of the company's titles and projects, and assist the Print Production Supervisor in the performance of his/her duties and responsibilities.

- single, 20-31 years old, college graduate
- preferably with some pre-press experience and knowledge of printing processes
- computer literate, with knowledge of InDesign, Photoshop and other related applications
- punctual, organized and methodical
- knowledgeable in color and design theory

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PUBLICATIONS

Interested applicants may email their resumés to hrd@hip.ph, spanillio@inquirer.com.ph or bring their resumé, two (2) 2x2 photos, Transcript of Records, and any valid I.D. to our office at Unit 330, Mile Long Building, Amorsolo corner Javier Streets, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. | Tel. Nos.: 759-2284, 759-2024, 840-0196, 813-6848

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- Female 25-35 years old w/ pleasing personality
- With 1 year experience in ad agency/PR/photography studio

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ptfcf
Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation

RESEARCH FELLOW

Six months, flexible working arrangements considered, including secondment
Salary scale: 20,000.00 to 35,000.00 depending on qualifications and experience
Closing Date: 9 March 2007

PTFCF has a six-month partnership with the International Resources Group through its FRAME project to undertake activities that will scrutinize the CBFM model in relation to the logging enterprises that holders often depend upon and the governmental regulations and processes with which they are bound. The task calls for site-based research, networking with natural resource management (NRM) practitioners, convening a symposia for the network, and the crafting of policy paper **by a research fellow.**

A. Terms of Reference for the Fellow

- Undertake a proposed study on the viability of community logging within the framework of a comparison of tenurial arrangements in Philippine forests
- Convene periodically and later expand the network of CBRM practitioners in collaboration with other NGOs in the field of the study topic
- Engage discussants and moderate an electronic discussion of the study topic as it progresses
- Contribute articles to the website and maintain a blog from the PTFCF (**www.ptfcf.org**) website of his or her insights as the study progresses.

B. Qualifications of the Fellow

- Familiarity with tenure arrangements in Philippine Forests from at least 5 years of experience in NRM work, at least half of which should have been spent on actual field work
- Excellent communications and research skills, more than one local language an advantage
- Highly analytical thinker with the ability to elicit insights from a local network of NRM practitioners and synthesize them
- Experience with maintaining a website would be an advantage

C. How to Apply

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter to:

Jose Andres A. Canivel
Executive Director
Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation
Unit 714, Manila Bank Building, 6772
Ayala Avenue, Makati City, 1223

Alternatively, please email your application to: **admin@ptfcf.org**

D. Further Information

For more information on this position, or for an informal discussion, please contact Jose Andres A. Canivel, Executive Director, on (02) 891 0595 and (02) 864 0287 or email: **admin@ptfcf.org**

Incuventure
Partners
Corporation

Incuventure is an established information technology ("IT") solutions provider offering a full range of services, including strategic consulting, application design and development, and system maintenance. It combines the expertise of seasoned management and financial consultants with that of dyed-in-the-wool information technology professionals to deliver customized end-to-end solutions. It is currently in the process of rapid expansion and has openings for the positions listed below.

PRODUCTS & SERVICES include:

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- Application Design and Development
- Wireless Solutions
- Logistics and Warehousing Solutions
- Banking and Financial Services Applications

Java Developers

Responsibilities:

- Participate in developing and testing intranet/internet applications.
- Perform unit and integration testing.
- Can work with a team, or independently with minimal supervision.

Requirements:

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- Required skill(s): Java/J2EE, Java Script/VB Script, JSP/HTML/PHP.
- Required language(s): English.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Part-time and full-time, entry-level to senior positions available.

Systems Analysts

Responsibilities:

- Identify and document user requirements
- Create and implement test scenarios
- Decompose requirements into functional units and design the system

Requirements:

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- Required skill(s): Analytical skills
- Required language(s): English.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Quezon City.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Experience in programming an advantage.
- Part-time and full-Time, entry-level to senior positions available.

Preference will be given to candidates who APPLY ONLINE.
Interview invitations may be sent via email so please check your email regularly.
You may send your applications and resume via recruitment@ipc-tech.com
For more information, visit our website at http://www.ipc-tech.com

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New Sokor laws to protect OFWs from discrimination

AFTER TWO YEARS OF DELIBERATION, South Korea passed three new laws aimed at protecting foreign workers from abuse and exploitation particularly discriminatory acts of employers, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said recently.

South Korea's Supreme Court also ruled recently that foreign workers on a training program are entitled to minimum wages and retirement pay equivalent to their Korean peers.

Citing a report from the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (Polo) in Seoul, Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that the new labor laws and the latest jurisprudence will certainly benefit overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) including those who entered South Korea as industrial trainees.

Brion said that the new Korean labor laws and jurisprudence is a welcome development in the efforts to promote the welfare and ensure the protection of OFWs whose number is increasing in South Korea.

He noted that the developments in labor and employment in South Korea boost this country as a growing market for OFWs.

Data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) showed that the number of OFWs deployed to South Korea has increased from 8,392 in 2004 to 9,975 in 2005. In the first six months of 2006, about 8,329 OFWs were deployed to South Korea which is already 83.5% of the total deployment to this country in 2005.

Seoul-based Labor Attache Rodolfo Sabulao said that the three new laws would take effect on July 1, 2007. The laws are the Contractual and Part-time Worker Protection Act, Dispatched Worker Protection Act, and the New Labor Relations Act.

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Mandaluyong SM Megamall, 5/L Bldg. B, EDSA | **Manila** G/F Trinity Bldg., TM Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila | **Or log on to www.jobmarketonline.com.**

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- Female, between 26-35 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year business related course or Fashion Merchandising
- Must have at least two (2) years work experience in the same/related field
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be analytical and results-oriented
- Must have good fashion sense
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

MARKETING OFFICER FOR BEAUTY BAR

- Female; between 24-30 years old
- Degree in Business, Marketing Management or Mass Communications
- Must have at least two (2) years work experience in advertising, publicity or marketing
- Must possess a pleasing, outgoing and dynamic personality
- Must be creative and with excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must have passion for cosmetics and body care products
- Must be computer literate

MERCHANDISING ASSISTANTS

- Female, between 23-28 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year business related course or Fashion Merchandising
- Must have at least six (6) months work experience
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be analytical and results-oriented
- Must have good fashion sense
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

BOUTIQUE MANAGERS/ SALES SUPERVISORS

- Female; between 25-30 years old; at least 5'2 in height
- Graduate of a four (4) year course
- Preferably with work experience in a fashion retail establishment
- Must possess a pleasing and aggressive personality
- Must be very good in customer relations
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be computer literate

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO E-MAIL OR SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
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- Must have strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must be analytical and must have good business sense
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be computer literate
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

Box # MN-004-07
C/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Division
Chino Roces Ave. cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.,
Makati City

Emergency Services Officer

Responsibilities

The position is responsible for assisting in the planning, implementation and management of all aspects of ADB's crisis management and emergency preparedness program to ensure optimum preparedness at Headquarters and at all field offices; ensuring that all Headquarters and field office crisis management and emergency plans are current and tested; and assisting in the management and implementation of a staff crisis management and emergency preparedness awareness program.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to Head, Security and Emergency Services Unit (OAFA-SE).

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- University degree in Public Administration or security related fields; preferably at the post-graduate level or its equivalent.
- At least 5 years relevant professional experience in the areas of security or crisis management in a corporation, government organization or international institution.
- Good knowledge and understanding of emergency and disaster preparedness methodologies and techniques.
- Good knowledge and understanding of the institution's overall operational programs, activities and policies.
- Excellent interpersonal skills to liaise effectively with staff, Management, other international organizations and senior host government officials.
- Emotional maturity to understand the impact and sensitivity of emergency preparedness and crisis management issues.
- Excellent oral and written skills in English.
- Good knowledge of IT applications.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from over 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-N007-046(4)-OAFA-SE** and **job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **16 March 2007**.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

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- Aptitude to quickly develop an understanding of Microsoft technology, licensing, and solutions and in turn sell these to customers to meet business needs.
- Strong decision making skills with the ability to troubleshoot problems and awareness of the escalation process.
- Proven ability to manage multiple and competing tasks/priorities.
- Ability to work as part of a team in a call center environment; previous "Team Lead" experience preferred.
- Excellent communication skills both written and oral in order to present campaign information effectively and persuasively.
- Strong PC spreadsheet, database and word processing skills.

Note: Resumé should at most be two pages long. E-mail it along with a short cover letter to: Ms. Cherry P. Sotto at **v-csotto@microsoft.com** or Azenith Lopez at **malopez@iplus.com.ph**. Only qualified applicants will be contacted.

A leading GLOBAL IATA TRAVEL AGENCY – ISO 9001-2000 CERTIFIED, is in need of the following:

TRAVEL CONSULTANT

- College graduate
- Experience in the travel industry, an advantage
- Willing to undergo traineeship if no experience in the industry
- Good communication skills
- Computer literate
- Hardworking and must have the passion for SERVICE
- Good Team Player

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- College graduate
- Good communication skills
- Good computer skills
- Good team player
- Hardworking and must have the passion for SERVICE

TRAVEL SALES EXECUTIVE

- College graduate
- Good communication skills
- Self driven, goal oriented, hardworking and must have the passion for SERVICE
- Good team player
- Good computer skills

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- College graduate preferably with accounting degree
- Good computer skills
- Good team player
- Hardworking and must have the passion for SERVICE

Please submit resumé, college transcript and passport photo at:

UG 6, Herrera Towers
Rufino cor Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City

or send email to: **info@trendstravelmart.com**
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ACCOUNT MANAGER

Applicants must be:

* 22-30 years old
* College Graduate
* With Sales Experience
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* Computer Literate (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
* Willing to travel
* Must be hard-working and possess a pleasing, personality, determination and team spirit

We offer:

* Basic pay, commissions and bonuses
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* Allowances

Please apply in person from March 8-9, 2007. Interviews will be conducted from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Bring your application letter, resumé and picture to:

Brooks Philippines
Unit A5 Aurora Building, Alabang Zapote Road
Tierra Nueva, Alabang, Muntinlupa City

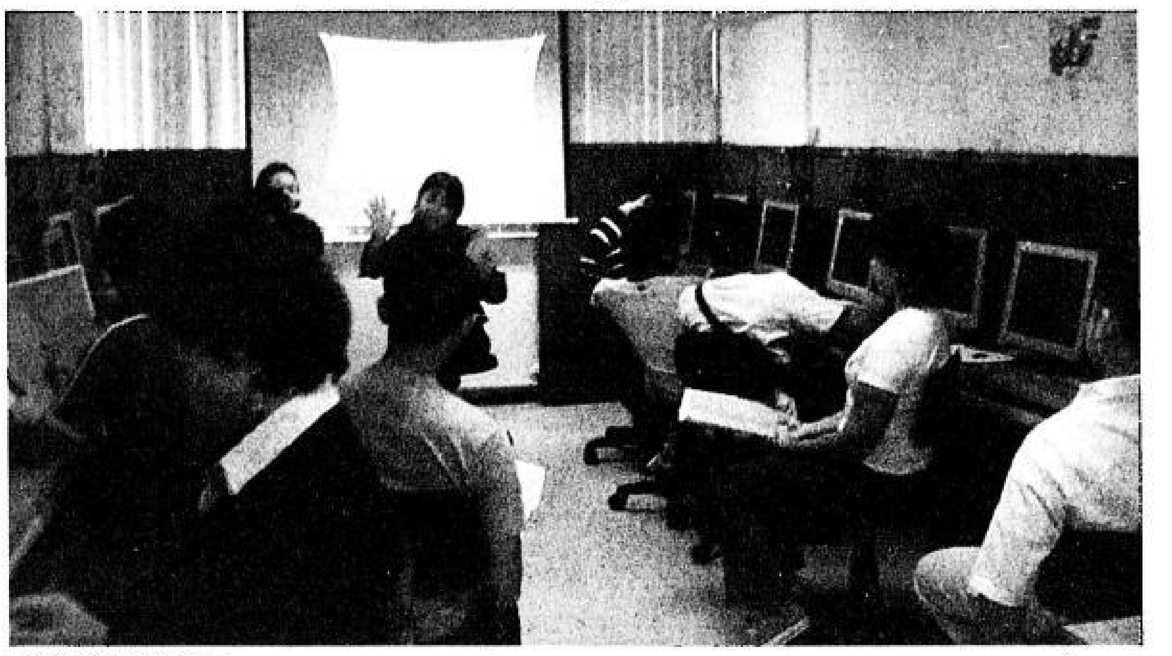
Training academy announces medical transcription course

BPO TRAINING ACADEMY, one of the country's most sophisticated institutions in the business process outsourcing industry announces the ongoing enrolment for its latest medical transcription course which starts in April 2007. The course will feature Health Care Documentation, Medical Science, and Professional Practice plus English Proficiency and Computer Essentials. Medical Transcription is one of the fastest-growing technical courses in the country. A progressive field under the BPO industry, it has generated billions of dollars worldwide and has helped Filipinos find gainful employment here and abroad in the last few years. BPO Training Academy's Medical Transcription Course is offered to both Allied and Non-Allied Health graduates and will be handled by highly-qualified educators and medical doctors.

BPO Training Academy started operations in 2006 with its initial program dubbed as the 100-hr finishing course for call center agents. The company's strategic approach to Call Center Training professionalized the career of call center agents who are considered the frontliners of the industry. Its highly qualified graduates are now working for reputable call centers such as Sykes Asia, e-telecare, CTI, I-Connect and others.

BPO Training Academy's excellent infrastructure, state-of-the-art Information Technology, progressive curricula and competent trainers with extensive experience in the call center industry and international educational institutions have also trained employees of local and multinational companies, as well as the travel and hotel industries. The Academy provides client-specific needs addressed in a specialist way to ensure efficient and optimal results for the companies and their staff. Its first-class education program features, among others, the English Communications for Professionals Program (eCPP) which uses the latest and most effective training and development techniques.

BPO Training Academy's mission is to provide Career Advancement Training Programs aimed at empowering individuals, promoting job excellence and honing world-class leaders in the Global Business Process Outsourcing industry. Its vision is to uplift the Philippines by developing Filipino professionals in various fields, and to foster and create long-term partnerships in the BPO industries in Asia and worldwide. BPO Training Academy believes in Excellence, Competence, Professionalism, Empowerment and Leadership. The company aims to serve God, country, and community.



BPO training room

BPO Training Academy will be giving a ten percent discount to the first twenty students of the Medical Transcription Course. BPO Training Academy is located at 4th and 5th Floors, Adriatico Executive Center, Adriatico Street, Malate, Manila with branch at Unit 217 Ablaza Building, E. Rodriguez Sr. corner Araneta Avenues, Quezon City. For more information, call telephone numbers 5368834, 4501802 and 5249461, text 09166588888, or check www.studybpo.com.

Pinoy HSWs in HK increase in Jan. 2007

CONTRARY TO FEARS of a reduction in the hiring overseas of Filipino household service workers (HSWs) as a result of the new policy on the deployment of HSWs, the number of new contracts for Filipino HSWs in Hong Kong increased in January 2007, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said.

A report reaching Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion cited figures from the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Hong Kong which showed that the new contracts for the employment of Filipino HSWs in Hong Kong increased by 20 percent from 2,246 in December 2006 to 2,700 in January 2007, two months after the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) issued the policy reforms for HSWs.

On a year-on-year basis, the January 2007 figure was even higher by 22 percent as compared to 2,198 contracts for newly-hired Filipino HSWs in Hong Kong recorded in the same period in 2006.

The contracts are usually being submitted to the Hong Kong-based POLO for verification.

The POEA guidelines, among others, raised the minimum salary of overseas Filipino HSWs from $200 monthly to $400 monthly. The HSWs are also required to undergo assessment and skills training for those who may fail the assessment three times.

Protests against the new POEA rules for HSWs sprang from fears that the new rules may push employers overseas to hire HSWs from other countries who are willing to receive lower wages, thereby, easing out HSWs from the Philippines.

Brion said, however, that the projected decrease in the employment of Filipino HSWs in Hong Kong due to the policy reforms does not appear to be imminent as indicated by the increase in the number of new hires for Filipino HSWs in Hong Kong early this year.

He said that the January 2007 figure may even signal a sustained demand for Filipino HSWs in Hong Kong this year, stressing that the increased monthly minimum salary for Filipino HSWs does not seem to discourage Hong Kong employers from getting HSWs from the Philippines.

"This is an indication that the policy reforms being instituted to provide the Filipino HSWs a cover of protection from potential abuse and exploitation abroad are not adversely affecting the preference of Hong Kong employers for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs)," Brion said.

The labor chief added that the continued preference for Filipino HSWs in Hong Kong proves that the institution of the policy reforms is not only morally correct but also an illustration of the wisdom in sending only those HSWs with adequate skills and knowledge in household work.

"Despite the salary increase, many Hong Kong employers still preferred OFWs for their skills, dependability, and ability to communicate and adjust effectively in foreign environments," Brion said.

At the same time, the DOLE chief allayed fears of OFWs engaged in domestic work especially those in Hong Kong who worried that they may be prevented from working abroad unless they submit themselves first in lengthy skills training and language competency tests.

He clarified that HSWs who already gained experience in household work especially abroad need not undergo training but only skills assessment to certify their competence. He said that only those who fail the assessment three times are required to train.

The HSWs may, however, undertake language training if they would be deployed to a country different from their previous employment, Brion said adding that the HSWs in need of language training can go to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration which conducts the training free of charge.

Check out more jobs from JobMarket Compact every Wednesday
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PhilHealth launches quality awards for partner-providers

IN LINE WITH ITS COMMITMENT TO ENSURE quality health care services for all members of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP), the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) will soon recognize qualified accredited health care institutions proven to be safe, efficient and a haven of quality output and services beneficial to both members and their dependents.

In a press briefing at the Annabel's Restaurant in Quezon City, Dr. Madeleine R. Valera, vice president for quality assurance research and policy development group and OIC, office of the vice president for health finance policy and services sector said that PhilHealth has started developing new standards of good health focusing on the quality of services being provided to members.

She added that giving recognition awards as an incentive to accredited health care providers will encourage these hospitals to aim for excellence in terms of the services that they provide and further promote medical tourism in our country.

During the first year of implementation of the PhilHealth Benchbook, PhilHealth will concentrate on the standards of patient's rights and organizational ethics. This will address how the health care providers respect the rights of its members and how certain policies will address ethical behaviors. Moreover, PhilHealth will also focus on patient's care wherein these hospitals should follow the good standards of treatment for particular illnesses.

Valera reveals that ongoing preliminary assessments in different hospitals is now taking place and that PhilHealth is currently tapping third party surveyors where experts from different medical societies, hospital management organizations, and other stakeholders are invited to determine which among these hospitals deserve such prestigious awards from PhilHealth.

She also pointed out that this will encourage the hospitals and their staffmembers to be serious with the new set of standards developed by PhilHealth based on the structural standards set by the Department of Health (DOH).

Occupational safety and health benchmarking: Asia-Pacific practices

THE COUNTRY'S WORKERS FACE COMPLEX risks and hazards in the workplace including exposure to toxic substances and materials in the face of a world characterized by changing technologies and work processes.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that 2.2 million work-related deaths occur annually, noting that this figure reflects an increase of 10 percent over the past five years. Non-fatal work-related diseases are estimated to reach a staggering 160 million annually. Occupational exposures to hazardous substances, processes, and working conditions tend to increase the risk of workers to develop work-related illnesses such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, nervous disorders, renal and chronic respiratory diseases, pneumoconiosis and asthma. Work-related cancer and heart diseases account for over half of all occupational fatalities, ILO pointed out.

Thus, amid these developments, reducing industrial accidents to zero and having a safe workplace is every company's objective.

A program to be run by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) in partnership with the Nippon-Keidanren International Cooperation Center (NICC) on March 7-8 this year is designed to provide prospective leaders taking responsibilities in the field of occupational safety and health (OSH) management, with opportunities to develop their management skills and capacities vis-à-vis occupational safety and health management systems through sharing of international best practices. The venue of the Program is at Dusit Hotel, Makati City.

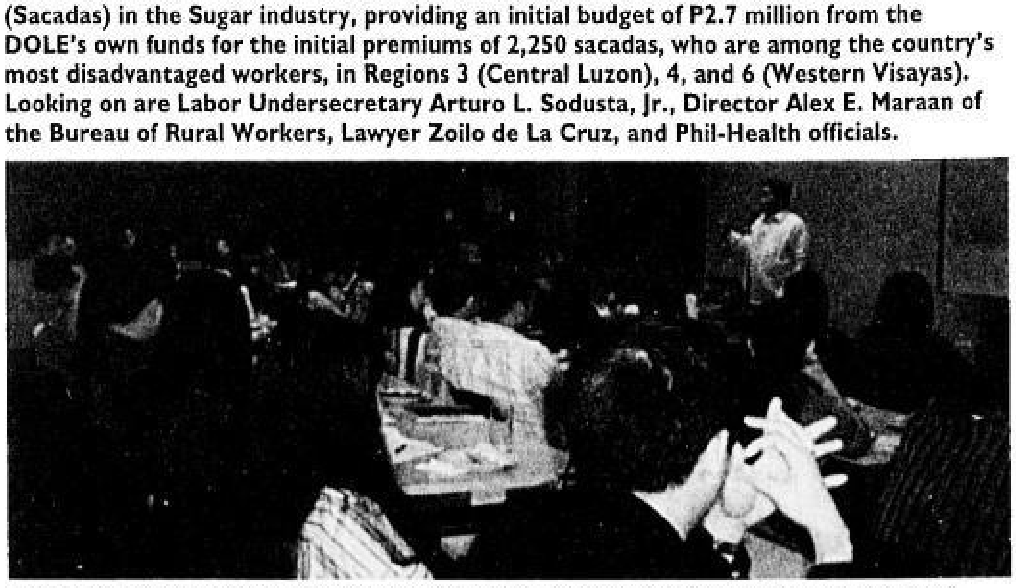
Up for discussion by Japan's Dr. Kazutaka Kogi and Dr. Dulce estrella-Gust, executive director, Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC), are International trends in Occupational Safety and Health; Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems: Experiences in Japan and Asia; Low-Cost Ways of Improving Safety and Productivity both in Materials Handling and Workstation Design; and OSH Trends in the Philippines.

To inquire or register, please call the ECOP Training and Development Department at 890-4845, 890-4847 or 899-0411. Hurry, register now as slots are limited.

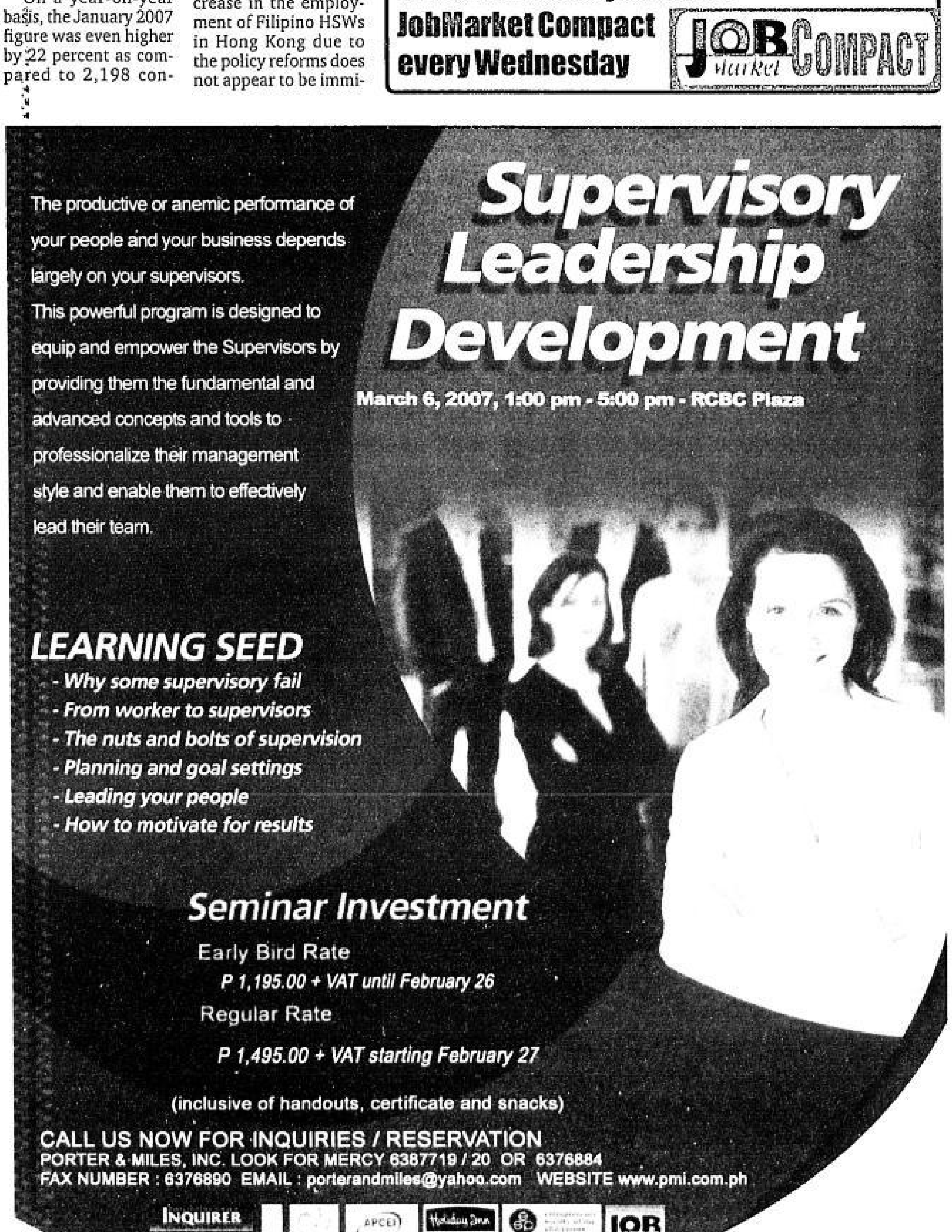
DOLE-PHILHEA ROGR
R THE MIGRATORY W ERS
HE SU

BREAKTHROUGH IN SOCIAL PROTECTION

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion, and Phil-Health acting president/CEO Lorna O. Fajardo forge the DOLE-Phil-Health Program for the Migratory Workers (Sacadas) in the Sugar industry, providing an initial budget of P2.7 million from the DOLE's own funds for the initial premiums of 2,250 sacadas, who are among the country's most disadvantaged workers, in Regions 3 (Central Luzon), 4, and 6 (Western Visayas). Looking on are Labor Undersecretary Arturo L. Sodusta, Jr., Director Alex E. Maraan of the Bureau of Rural Workers, Lawyer Zoilo de La Cruz, and Phil-Health officials.



LAWYER MANUEL QUAIMBAO TALKS ABOUT ASPECTS OF THE LABOR CODE AS applied to the call center industry in a learning session organized by People Breakthroughs and Corporate Solutions.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Digital mismatch: Employment in the IT industry

It's not the lack of jobseekers but the lack of qualified workers

By Darwin C. Moya
Contributor

HUMAN RESOURCE PRACTITIONERS in the IT industry could very well echo Coleridge as they review applications and conduct interviews for entry-level positions: "Water, water everywhere nor any drop to drink!"

HR practitioners—as is the case in the IT industry—rant of the dearth of professionals to fill in their manpower requirements. There is no dearth of applicants what with unemployment figures of 2.6 million as of October 2006.

But the problem lies in jobs-skills mismatch. It's no lack of opportunities nor lack of jobseekers but the lack of qualified professionals to take on the available jobs.

As the IT industry's case shows, a myriad of opportunities abound because of the industry's broadening reach. There's a great demand for professionals in IT-enabled industries such as contact centers and BPOs as well as in high-tech telecommunications. Across industries, companies maintain in-house IT groups that cater to their automation and information systems requirements. Yet in spite of this demand, graduates still fail to make the cut and land a job.

HR practitioners in the IT industry report success rates of processed applications range from a deplorable low of two percent to an equally pitiful high of 10 percent. Thus, recruitment for IT professionals has indeed taken on a quest-like quality.

As a desperate attempt to keep up with industry demands, IT firms resort to pirating from each other the chosen few who are capable of delivering the needed results. As may be expected, admits one HR practitioner, salary scales are inevitably distorted as companies try to match or provide an even better compensation package to attract qualified professionals. And this practice rings an alarm for if it spins out of control, IT firms could very well end up killing each other.

Demanding supply

Globalization and the stiff competition it entails pose as great challenges to the local IT industry. And it is in this context that the lack of IT professionals should be seen.

Increased competition increases firms' requirements for qualified personnel and decreases the time for companies to retool and train their new recruits. Thus, fresh entrants to the workforce are expected to be productive starting day one. Unfortunately, our academic institutions cannot keep pace with the requirements of industry and fresh graduates find themselves unsuccessful in finding employment in spite of them being armed with their hard-earned diplomas.

To a great extent, academe's shortcomings come in the form of curricula unresponsive to industry demands, the lack of practitioners in the faculty cadre, and the state of equipment which leaves much to be desired. However, the skills gap could also be attributed to other factors such as the overall state of our basic education system.

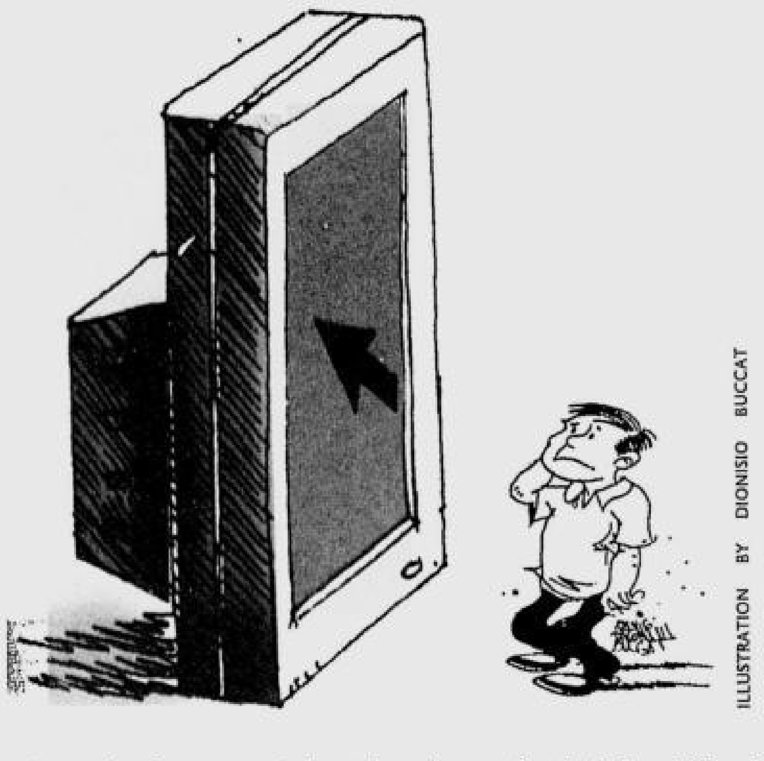


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

In a seemingly ironic twist, the IT industry has become a victim of what some HR practitioners call the "Gameboy Generation." Of course, it is the rise of information technology that has largely influenced the instant mentality that characterizes this generation. A click of a mouse embodies the ease with which automation has unknowingly tempered the critical faculties of the youth and it is quite distressing to note that aside from the technical skills that the graduates apparently lack, their soft skills and critical thinking are also lagging behind.

A case of technical and liberal education not making the mark? HR practitioners in the IT industry seem to think so.

'Desaparecidos'

And yet, the few who were able to successfully strike the balance between technical and soft skills are still nowhere to be found. For these *desaparecidos*, we can see cases.

Case number 1 could be aptly termed as "Great Expectations" wherein prestigious university graduates refuse to accept employment other than managerial posts. And while HR practitioners enjoy their communication skills during interviews, a reserved parking space may just be way beyond what an IT company could offer. Simply put, fresh graduates should do away with this I-am-already-fit-to-be-a-manager mentality because companies put a premium on experience.

On the other hand, case number 2 is the all too familiar "Bagong Bayani" situation. The case needs no further explanation as international demand for IT professionals steadily grows. However, a paradox exists here in that while government pushes for the Philippines to become an ICT hub, it seems to neglect the fact that it encourages the migration of IT professionals to the greener pastures of the Middle East. Thus, HR practitioners ask: How do you expect business to come in and stay if we don't have the required personnel in the country? Perhaps it might prove useful to put a spin to this Bagong Bayani case and drive home the point that those who stay, in spite of lower pay, are also worth the tag Modern Day Heroes.

To infinity and beyond

Yes there are jobs but no, not a lot are qualified to fill in these requirements. Given this mismatch, what then do IT companies look for in applicants? Who is their ideal IT graduate?

On top of the list is technical aptitude coupled with the propensity to learn. Admittedly, the industry has its own dysfunctions in that the preponderance of proprietary technology pushes certain programming skills to become obsolete in a short span of time. Thus, a graduate's inherent desire to keep pace with technical innovations is a must. Second, an understanding of the entire industry and how IT fits into business is an advantage which could curb the in-factor among IT professionals. Indeed, while technology may be striding at an ever-increasing pace, old programming languages do not necessarily become passé and the need for experts to maintain these functions remain. Soft skills and the need for critical and analytical thinking rank third. And last, a sense of nationalism is a much welcome trait that is hoped to keep our talents within the country.

With these ideal traits as a guide, the academe, industry, and government could hopefully come up with efforts to address the skills mismatch operating in the local IT industry. Training linkages for students and professors, curriculum development, and career advocacy are noteworthy coordination areas for academe and industry. Of course, government has much to offer in terms of setting standards and regulating the outflow of mission critical skills. Linkages have to be nurtured because ultimately, the vision of the Philippines as Southeast Asia's ICT hub could only be realized through fruitful tripartite coordination.

(The author is a research assistant of the People Management Association of the Philippines. The article is based on an interview with HR-IT Forum, a group of HR practitioners in the IT industry.)

Trainors get training

By Emman Cena

IN A BID TO SUPPORT THE growth of the call center industry through training, some 200 top executives and call center practitioners gathered at the Call Center 2007 Training Convention recently.

"All of us share the limelight, telling his or her own piece of advice to colleagues," Jon Kaplan told the Inquirer during the convention. Kaplan is president of Teledevelopment Services Inc. (TDS), the host of the event.

He said the two-day conference sought to establish network among the people in the industry and to "learn from each other how to sustain and ride the craze" of the call center industry which according to Asian Call Center Review places the Philippines at the top spot of the offshore industries in the Asian region.

In 2005, the country also ranked first in the top 10 worldwide BPO destinations, according to neoIT's 2005 Mapping Offshore Markets Update.

Upholding the theme's 3Ps of Peak Performance: People, Programs and Projects, the convention aimed at improving the training effectiveness of the industry, according to Ofella Montallana-Orcales, director for training of TDS.

"This also targets to give our fellow practitioners updates on training trends, methodologies and approaches," said Benedict Hernandez, general manager and vice president of eTelecare Global Solutions.

Hernandez shared his piece on key training needs of the industry saying that the industry has a lot of potential for "people who want to explore opportunities and those who want to be leaders."

"Trainors do not just train agents for the right accent and pronunciation. It's leadership," Hernandez added.

The conference, focused solely on the call center industry, kicked off with two plenary sessions led by Commission on Higher Education Commissioner Nona Saldaña-Ricafort who delivered her speech "Maximizing Blended Learning for Call Center Needs."

TDS, a US-based international call center training, recruiting and consulting firm established in 1991, specializes in helping companies maximize opportunities in the business outsourcing and the contact center industry. It is celebrating its third year in the Philippines.

'I want to succeed as a human resource manager!'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM PRESENTLY EMPLOYED in a health care company as a training officer. I graduated from the university with a degree in hotel and restaurant management five years ago. I had difficulty finding a good job until I was referred to this company whose only vacancy was in human resources. This is a fortunate coincidence because now I really love my job in training and my vision is to someday become a human resource or an organization development manager. I want to pursue further studies or join associations that can help me move forward. Please advise me on steps to take.

Training Specialist

Welcome to the enriching career in human resource management and organization development. I say enriching for two reasons. One, if you pursue this career you will engage in continuous learning. In training for example, the more you teach, the more you learn. Learning comes from having to master your subject matter as well as from the views of adults you train.

Two, rewarding in the sense of the rising respect and recognition for people engaged in human resource management. Recently, I came across a global magazine that cited senior human resource persons being the fifth best-paid executives in large and multinational companies. In this era of accelerated change, increasingly, the ability to manage people well and enhance systems that support them form the only sustainable competitive advantage of companies today.

Steps to take

What are the steps you can take to become a successful organization development or human resource manager in the future?

One, is to engage in further studies. You can begin by attending classes in either human resource management or organization development. I know the College of St. Benilde of Dela Salle University offers diploma courses on Saturdays at a convenient time of 12:30-7:30 p.m. Recently, my company Ancilla signed a consortia agreement with them to ensure enhanced programs that possess not only academic rigor but also strong practitioner orientation.

After finishing your diploma course, you may still desire to pursue a masters degree in human resource management. Many universities now offer it as a regular graduate school program. If you want to specialize in Organization Development, you can enroll at the pioneer school for Organization Development in the country, the South East Asian Interdisciplinary Institute or Saidi, with a campus in Antipolo and on Saturdays in a convenient offsite facility in Makati City.

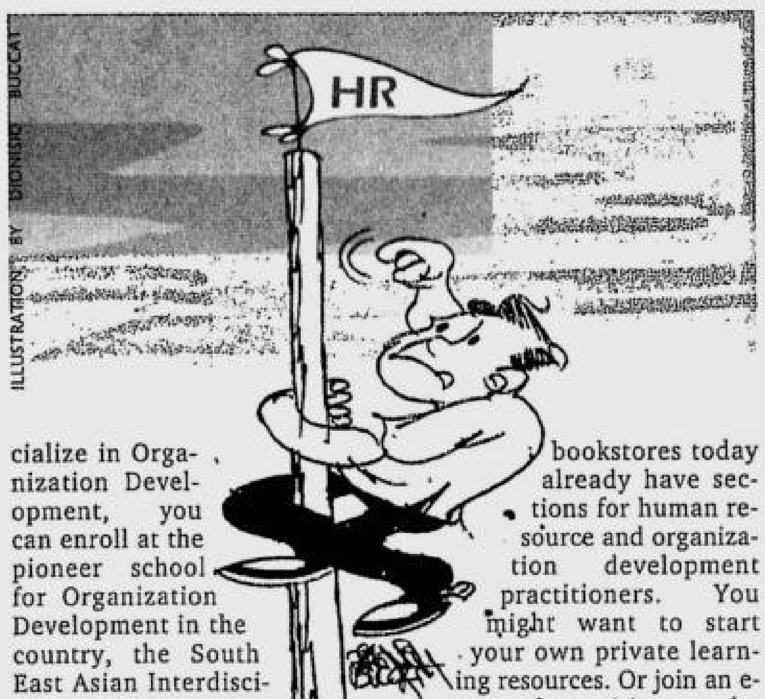


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Second, join a network of practitioners. For a general and extensive view of the industry you can join the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) and/or if you operate in the south of Manila the People South Network (PSN). For more specialized networking in your field you can join the Organization Development Practitioners Network (ODPN) or the Philippine Society for Training and Development (PSTD). Third, start a reading program. Many bookstores today already have sections for human resource and organization development practitioners. You might want to start your own private learning resources. Or join an e-group of practitioners who actively share activities, structured learning experiences and training tools that can enrich your practice.

Finally, do not forget that the key to your career is creating impact through performance and proactive support to your internal corporate clients. They will make sure that they pass on the good word about your latest interesting and informative training program. All the best. God bless!

(The author is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training.)

Gospel: Luke 9: 28b-36
While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.

Union with God

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

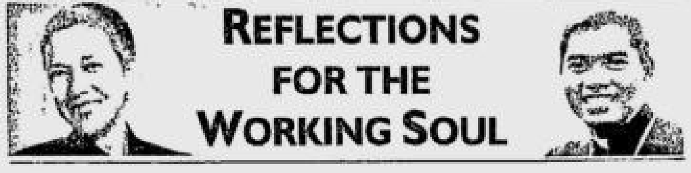
THE GOSPEL VERSE FOCUS PRESENTS THE PICTURE OF A "PRAying Jesus" and how from His human image, He showed His glorious appearance while in prayer.

By this, the Lord teaches us that prayer is so important in His life and that of the believer. It would seem very useful therefore to understand how prayer could relate to our world of work; and how it could change the value and significance of human work.

Essentially, prayer is union of the person praying (pray-er) with God. From the human side, prayer would be kind of a "work" to be done—an effort the creature has to do. This work consists in gathering all one's energies both mental or spiritual, and physical or emotional and then putting them in the presence of God. Those who try to pray could say that it is like trying to do some work; and, as one needs to use all his energies to do well in his work, so does he in order to pray well. One who is accustomed to work well, would be most likely be successful, too, in his prayer life. The attitude of taking work seriously could help one to also take prayer life faithfully and the habit of working properly could also develop in one the sense of priority and importance of prayer which would lead him to union with God.

But the worker should also take note that unlike work which depends much if not entirely on one's skill and competence to be successful, prayer as union with God, would rely almost totally on God's love and mercy on the prayer.

He should therefore work with an attitude of surrender to the Lord, thus making his work also a prayer—transforming it into something that unites his whole being with God. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*



REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

A real love life

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

AT A REUNION OF FORMER WORK ASSOCIATES, IT WAS AMUSing to hear comments on (changes in) people's appearance. Exaggerations Unlimited. "My, not a wrinkle on your forehead!" (There are actually three lines plus the furrows on the brows). "Gosh, you never seem to grow old! What is your secret?" (The person replies: "No secret; maybe your eyesight is just failing!") More interesting are the comments made in whispers: "*Nagpa*-facelift *siguro siya!*" "*Kasi, palit-palit ng* lover, *'no? Kaya laging bata!*" "*Paano gumanda 'yan? Dati naman ordinaryo lang mukha niyan, 'di ba?*"

Those presumptions may be correct but they are missing the bigger picture, particularly when the change in appearance is obvious but its cause is elusive. Perhaps people do not readily connect changes in people's appearance with things other than cosmetic surgery or a robust love or sex life. Don't you think it's just a bit sad that we can be so merely physical or psychological in our thinking? A change in appearance when no apparent reason can be pinpointed could mean a change in disposition. It could be that the person has found his niche in the world, has come to terms with herself, or has found The Love that transcends all loves.

Those colleagues at the reunion seemed unable to guess that a person who has not had a facelift nor an active sex life still looks impressively beautiful just the same because she has discovered the power of prayer. It's in today's Gospel story that focuses on Jesus' change in appearance as he prayed. From now on, notice the faces of prayerful people—not just pious people but people who really empty themselves to be filled with God. You will never again give the credit only to plastic surgeons and vigorous lovers. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

MARCH 4, 2007

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RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

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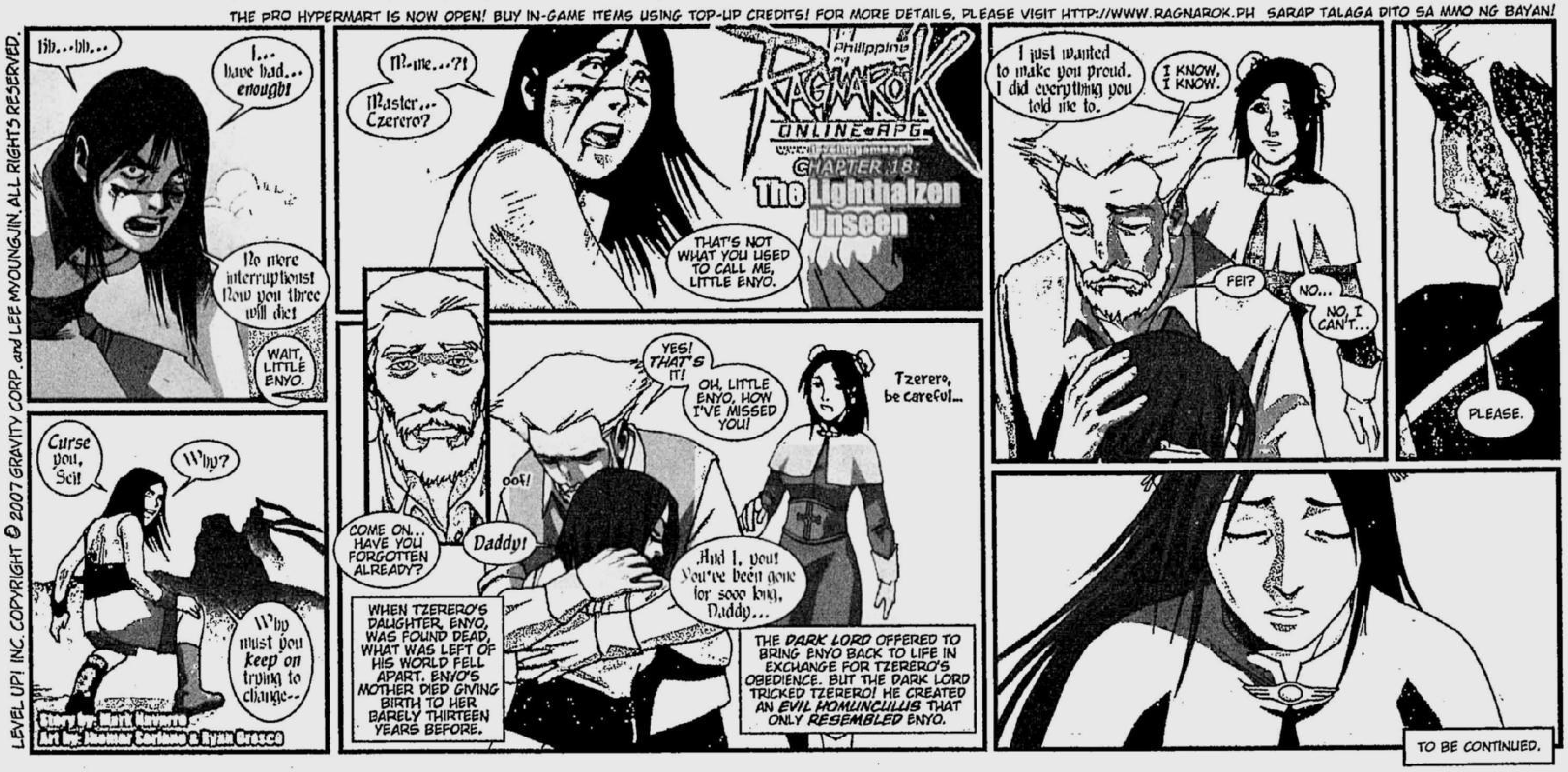
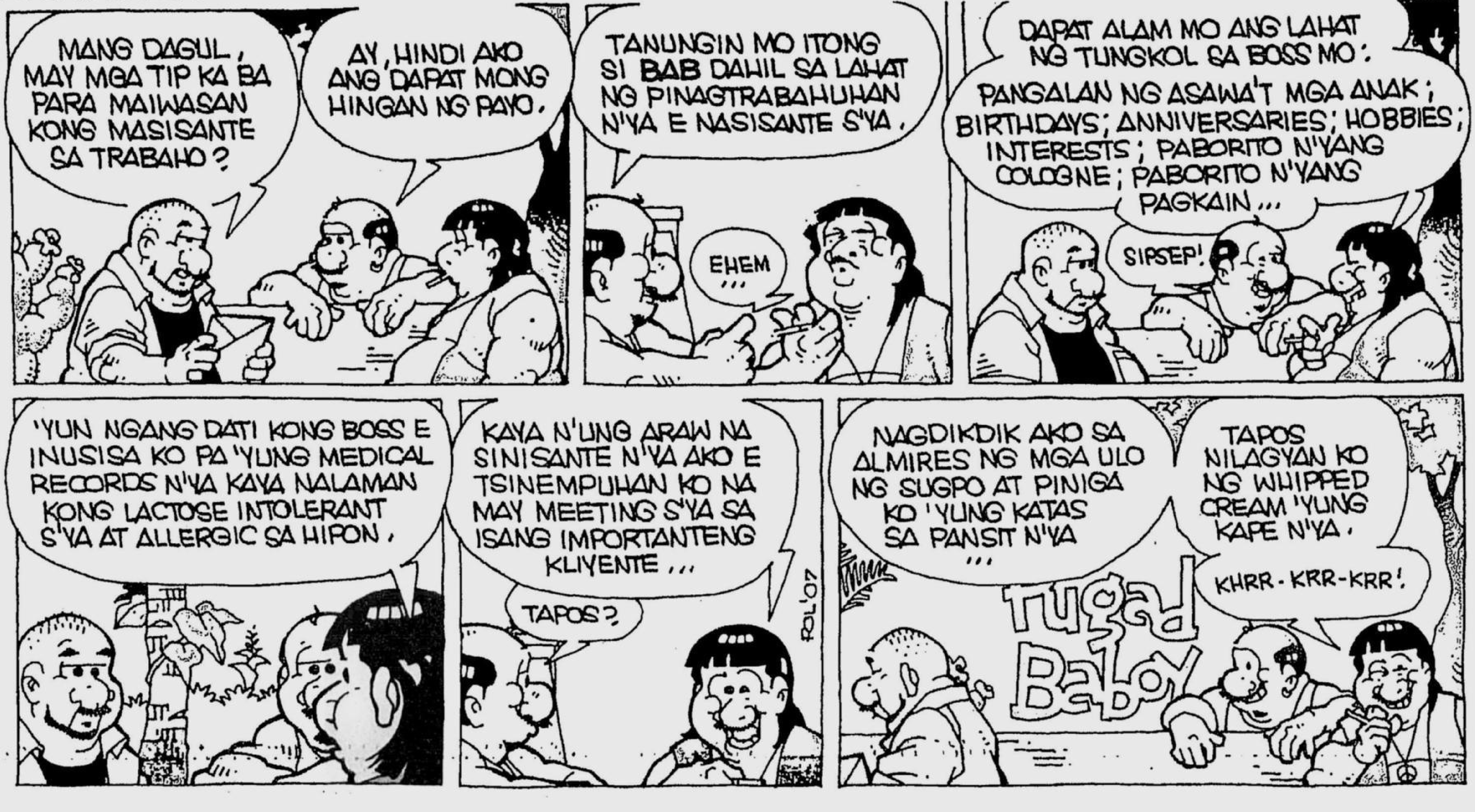

Hh...hh...
I... have had... enough!
No more interruptions! Now you three will die!
WAIT, LITTLE ENYO.
Curse you, Sei!
Why?
Why must you keep on trying to change--
Story by: Mark Navarro
Art by: Jhomar Soriano & Ryan Orosco
M-me...?!
Master... Czerero?
Philippine Ragnarok Online RPG
CHAPTER 18: The Lighthalzen Unseen
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU USED TO CALL ME, LITTLE ENYO.
COME ON... HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ALREADY?
oof!
Daddy!
YES! THAT'S IT!
OH, LITTLE ENYO, HOW I'VE MISSED YOU!
And I, you! You've been gone for sooo long, Daddy...
Tzerero, be careful...
WHEN TZERERO'S DAUGHTER, ENYO, WAS FOUND DEAD, WHAT WAS LEFT OF HIS WORLD FELL APART. ENYO'S MOTHER DIED GIVING BIRTH TO HER BARELY THIRTEEN YEARS BEFORE.
THE DARK LORD OFFERED TO BRING ENYO BACK TO LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR TZERERO'S OBEDIENCE. BUT THE DARK LORD TRICKED TZERERO! HE CREATED AN EVIL HOMUNCULUS THAT ONLY RESEMBLED ENYO.
I just wanted to make you proud. I did everything you told me to.
I KNOW, I KNOW.
FEI?
NO...
NO, I CAN'T...
PLEASE.
TO BE CONTINUED.

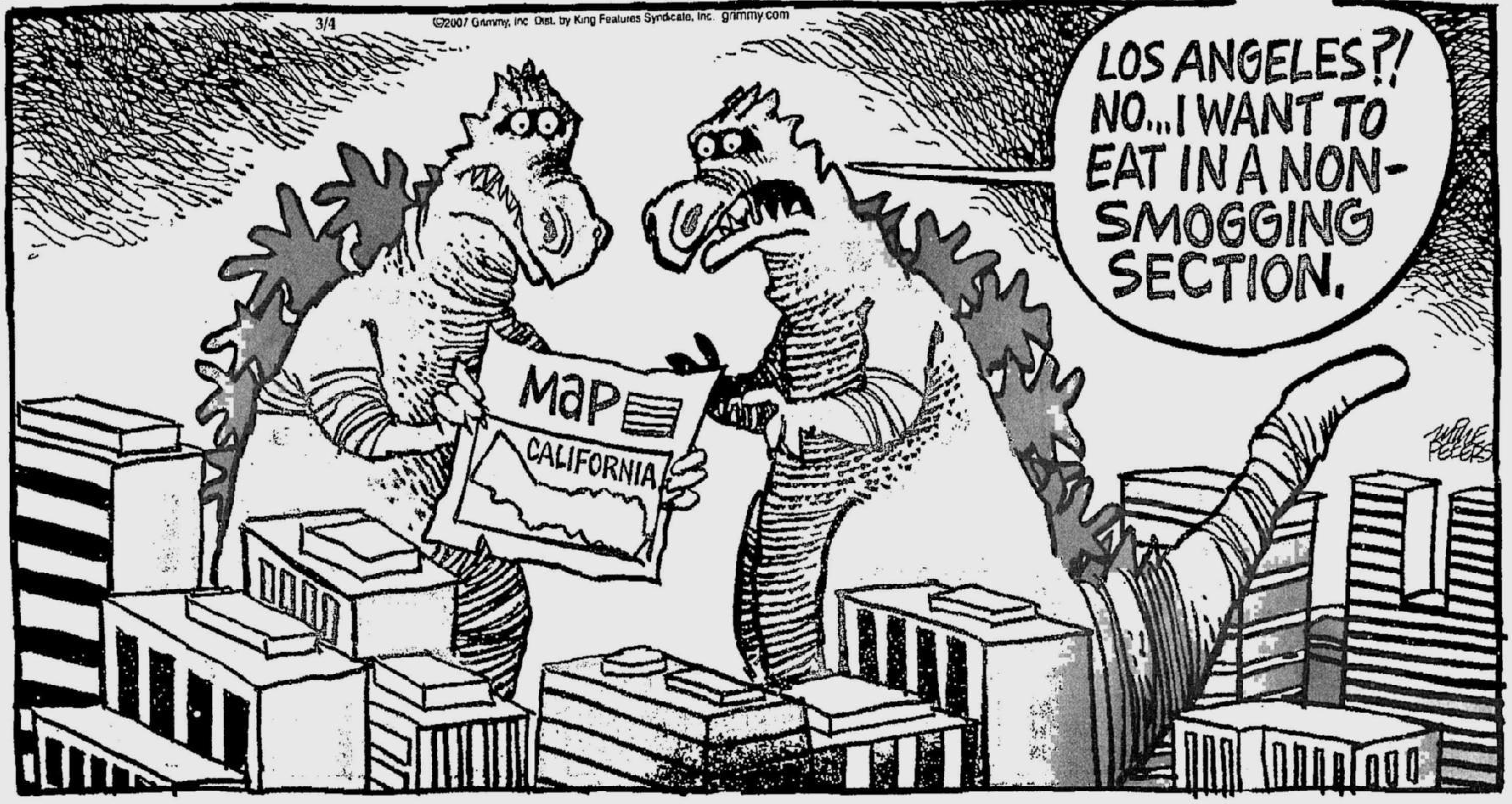
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


MANG DAGUL, MAY MGA TIP KA BA PARA MAIWASAN KONG MASISANTE SA TRABAHO?
AY, HINDI AKO ANG DAPAT MONG HINGAN NG PAYO.
TANUNGIN MO ITONG SI BAB DAHIL SA LAHAT NG PINAGTRABAHUHAN N'YA E NASISANTE S'YA.
EHEM ...
DAPAT ALAM MO ANG LAHAT NG TUNGKOL SA BOSS MO:
PANGALAN NG ASAWA'T MGA ANAK; BIRTHDAYS; ANNIVERSARIES; HOBBIES; INTERESTS; PABORITO N'YANG COLOGNE; PABORITO N'YANG PAGKAIN...
SIPSEP!
'YUN NGANG DATI KONG BOSS E INUSISA KO PA 'YUNG MEDICAL RECORDS N'YA KAYA NALAMAN KONG LACTOSE INTOLERANT S'YA AT ALLERGIC SA HIPON.
KAYA N'UNG ARAW NA SINISANTE N'YA AKO E TSINEMPUHAN KO NA MAY MEETING S'YA SA ISANG IMPORTANTENG KLIYENTE...
TAPOS?
POL '07
NAGDIKDIK AKO SA ALMIRES NG MGA ULO NG SUGPO AT PINIGA KO 'YUNG KATAS SA PANSIT N'YA ...
TAPOS NILAGYAN KO NG WHIPPED CREAM 'YUNG KAPE N'YA.
KHRR-KRR-KRR!
Pugad Baboy

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


3/4
LOS ANGELES?! NO...I WANT TO EAT IN A NON-SMOGGING SECTION.
MaP
CALIFORNIA
MIKE PETERS

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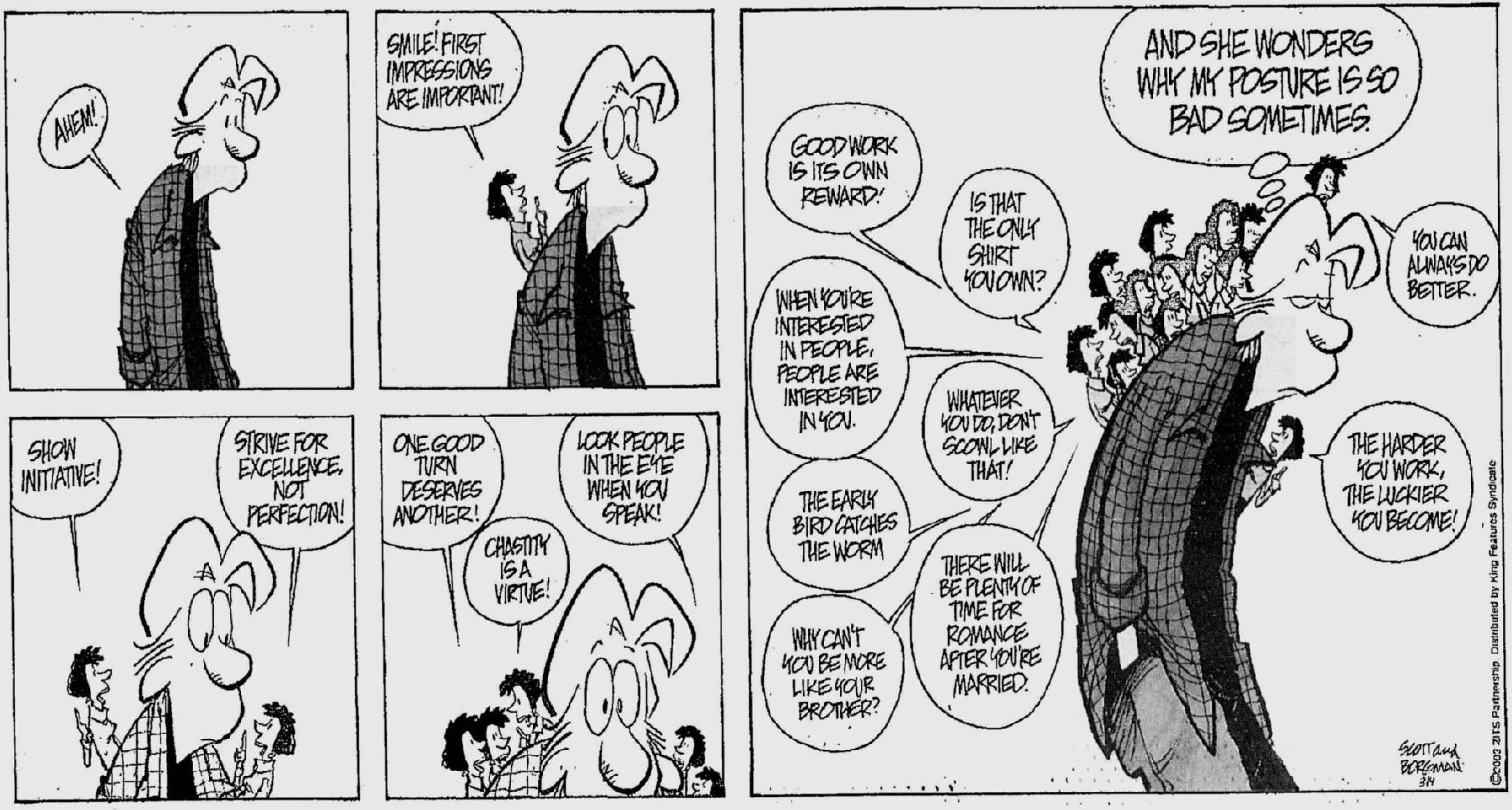
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


AHEM!
SMILE! FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE IMPORTANT!
SHOW INITIATIVE!
STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE, NOT PERFECTION!
ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER!
CHASTITY IS A VIRTUE!
LOOK PEOPLE IN THE EYE WHEN YOU SPEAK!
AND SHE WONDERS WHY MY POSTURE IS SO BAD SOMETIMES.
GOOD WORK IS ITS OWN REWARD!
IS THAT THE ONLY SHIRT YOU OWN?
YOU CAN ALWAYS DO BETTER.
WHEN YOU'RE INTERESTED IN PEOPLE, PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN YOU.
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T SCOWL LIKE THAT!
THE EARLY BIRD CATCHES THE WORM
THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR ROMANCE AFTER YOU'RE MARRIED.
WHY CAN'T YOU BE MORE LIKE YOUR BROTHER?
THE HARDER YOU WORK, THE LUCKIER YOU BECOME!
SCOTT and BORGMAN 3/4

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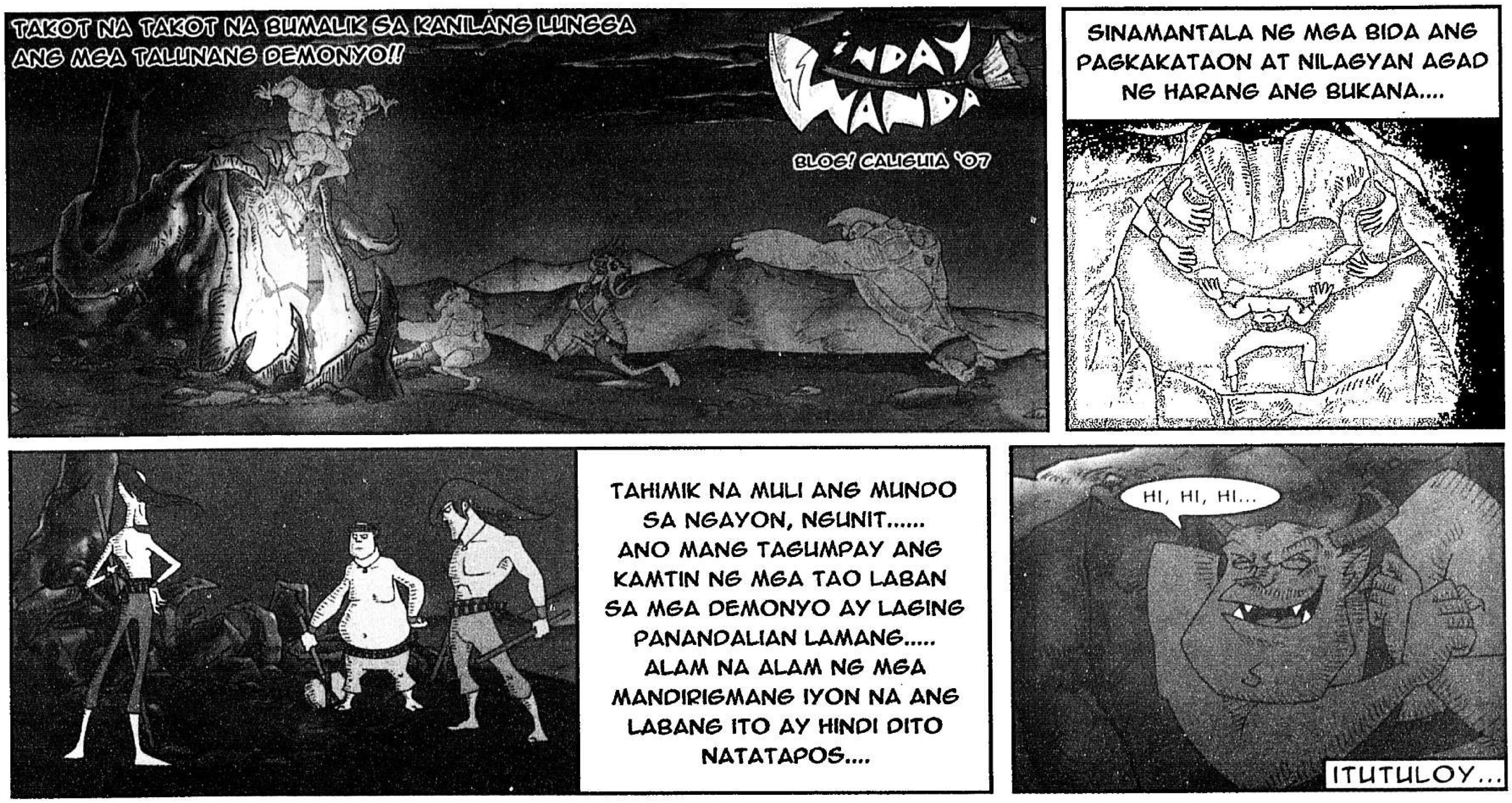
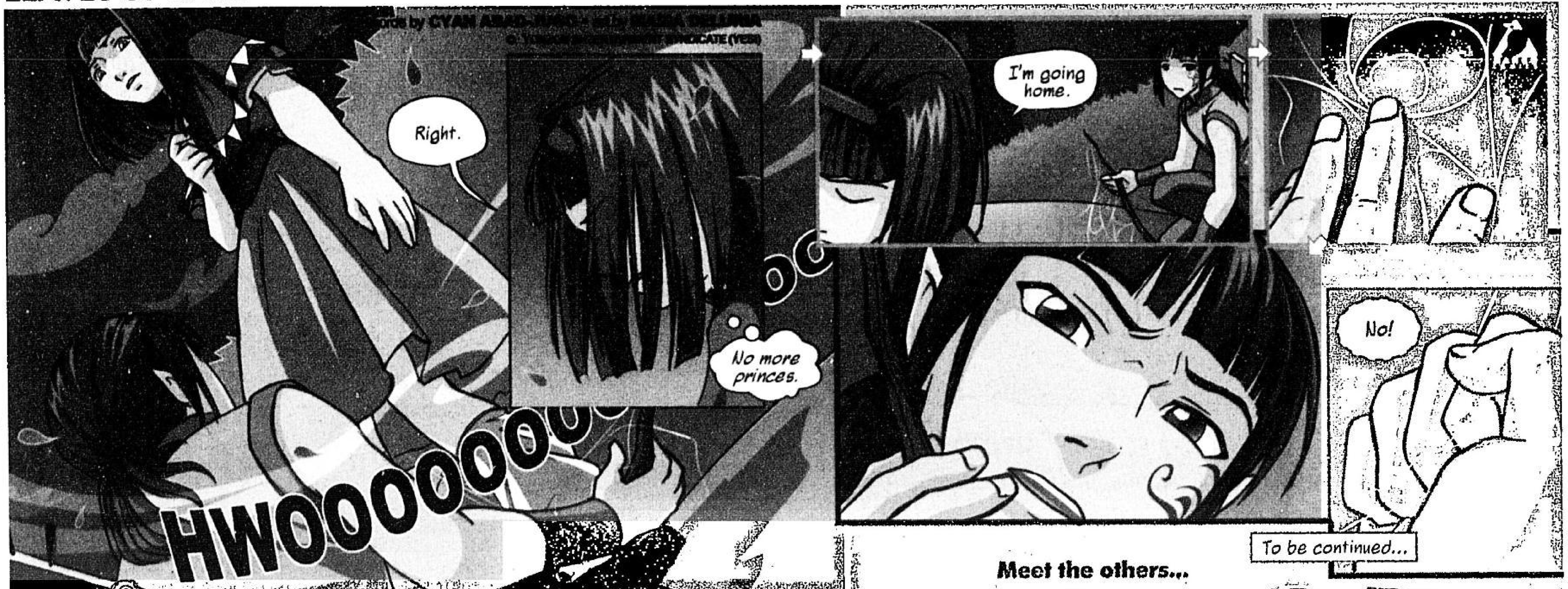
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


TAKOT NA TAKOT NA BUMALIK SA KANILANG LUNGGA ANG MGA TALUNANG DEMONYO!!
INDAY WANDA
BLOG! CALIGUIA '07
SINAMANTALA NG MGA BIDA ANG PAGKAKATAON AT NILAGYAN AGAD NG HARANG ANG BUKANA....
TAHIMIK NA MULI ANG MUNDO SA NGAYON, NGUNIT...... ANO MANG TAGUMPAY ANG KAMTIN NG MGA TAO LABAN SA MGA DEMONYO AY LAGING PANANDALIAN LAMANG..... ALAM NA ALAM NG MGA MANDIRIGMANG IYON NA ANG LABANG ITO AY HINDI DITO NATATAPOS....
HI, HI, HI...
ITUTULOY...

LEAVES OF GLAZ

BY MANGO COMICS

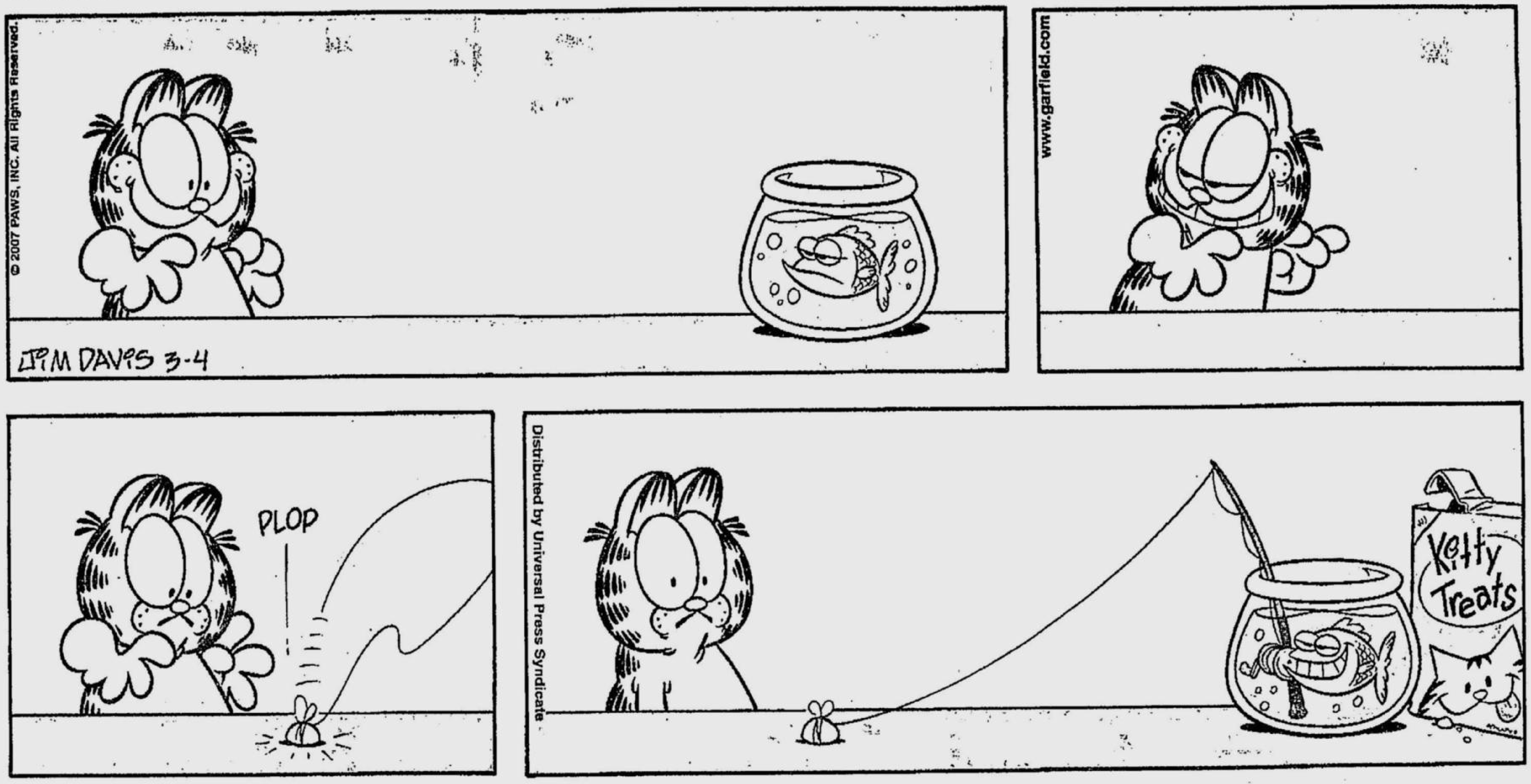

by CYAN ABAD-JUGO
Right.
HWOOOOOOOO
No more princes.
I'm going home.
No!
To be continued...

Jam presents Leaves of Glaz
㉝
GIRL POWER
MANGO JAM
NOW AVAILABLE
AT YOUR FAVORITE
BOOKSTORE,
MAGAZINE SHOP

Meet the others...

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS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JIM DAVIS 3-4
www.garfield.com
PLOP
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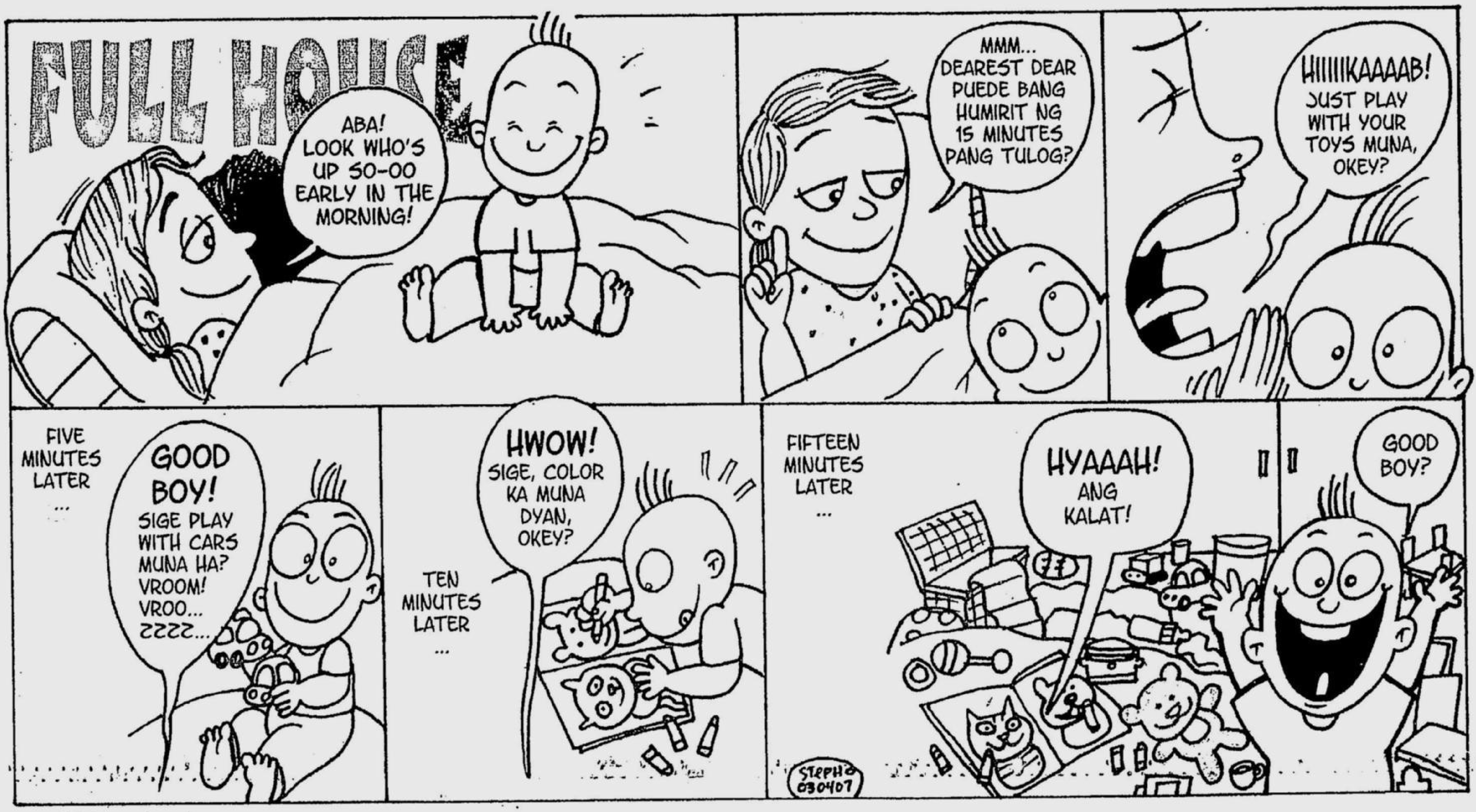
Kitty Treats

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


FULL HOUSE
ABA! LOOK WHO'S UP SO-OO EARLY IN THE MORNING!
MMM... DEAREST DEAR PUEDE BANG HUMIRIT NG 15 MINUTES PANG TULOG?
HIIIIIKAAAAB! JUST PLAY WITH YOUR TOYS MUNA, OKEY?
FIVE MINUTES LATER ...
GOOD BOY! SIGE PLAY WITH CARS MUNA HA? VROOM! VROO... ZZZZ...
TEN MINUTES LATER ...
HWOW! SIGE, COLOR KA MUNA DYAN, OKEY?
FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER ...
HYAAAH! ANG KALAT!
GOOD BOY?
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March 4, 2007

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Grace Tagle

The Power of Plastic

plus All You Need to Know About Credit Cards • Avoiding Fraud and more!

By Eric S. Caruncho

The Last of the Singing Cowboys

After surviving drugs, brain tumor and a host of diseases, Howlin' Dave is back to reclaim lost glory. The disc jockey who broke punk rock on Philippine radio in the late '70s finds another chance to shape the music of the next generation

HOWLIN' Dave is still on the air, broadcasting into the ether through the steel plate in his head, from where they took out a giant tumor in his cerebellum 15-plus years ago.

Now he plays only the good stuff: no more need to compromise with tight-ass fellow jocks or pesky programming directors. F*** the boomers.

The playlist is pure Howlin' Dave: the Velvets, the Rezillos, Fischer-Z, Roxy Music, gloomy old Leonard Cohen, the Ramones... stuff they don't play on radio anymore because they're oldies, or they don't fit into today's tightly-programmed formats. What do they know?

Howlin' Dave's 51-year-old earthly body is starting to give out from the toll of, he estimates, at least 35 years of sex, drugs, rock 'n roll and poor oral hygiene. He's got arthritis, rheumatism, pneumonia, diabetes, hypertension—"*Pare*, AIDS *na lang ang kulang*! (Everything but AIDS)," but what's left of his mind still burns with the rock 'n roll flame.

He's the last of a dying breed: the disc jockey who plays music because he loves it, and like an Ebola carrier, wants to infect as many people as possible with this love.

Nowadays disc jockeys merely punch in the playlist from a computer keyboard in between spiels. It's not like the old days when DJs were keepers of the flame, repositories of lore, tribal elders handing down precious knowledge to the hungry new generation, warping young minds, forming tastes, shaping the culture.

There are some things you don't forget. The first time I heard the Sex Pistols was on Howlin' Dave's program on DZRJ AM. It was the end of the '70s. I was 23, newly married and expecting my first child, gainfully employed for the first time and about to settle down into the whole straight life of kids and mortgages and orthodontist bills when this unholy racket issued forth from the car radio.

Howlin' Dave: The DJ as keeper of the flame

"I am an anti-Christ! I am an anarchist!"

Then came this breathless rush of verbiage from the disc jockey, tripping over his own tongue in his excitement to communicate the import of the cut he had just played.

I remember thinking: "So that's why they call him Howlin' Dave." On account of all his on-air howlers: he mangled grammar and syntax but somehow communicated all the passion and excitement he felt for this new music which, I later learned, was called "punk rock."

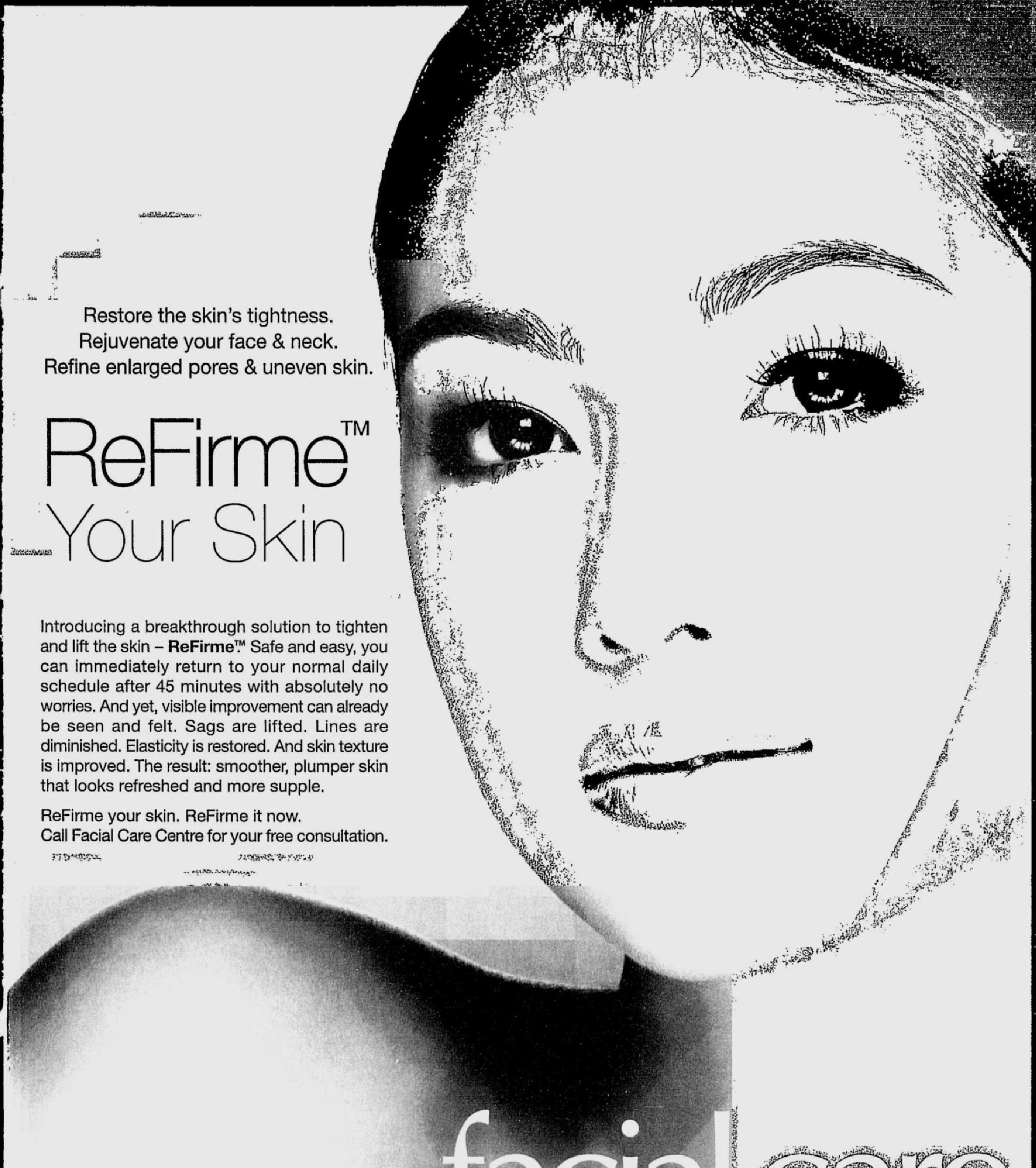
I would spend the next 20 years interviewing and writing about bands, a lot of whose members first picked up a guitar after listening to Howlin' Dave's radio program: Buddy Trinidad of Betrayed, Dominic "Papadom" Gamboa of Tropical Depression, Arnold Morales of Put3Ska, Francis Reyes of the Dawn, among many others. Howlin' Dave was the Johnny Appleseed of Pinoy punk and new wave, and appropriate tribute was paid when he received the 2001 Lifetime Achievement Award at the NU107 Rock Awards.

Finally, Howlin' Dave was institutionalized, like they always said he would be.

Contrary to urban legend, radio great Ben "*O, hindeh*!" David isn't Dante "Howlin' Dave" David's father. "I was influenced by my father, Nic David, who was one of the pioneers of Philippine broadcasting," he says. "He used to be with ABS-CBN, mostly on the radio, *baduy* programs like '*Kahapon Lamang*.' When I was a kid, he would bring me to the station and ask me to read on the air. I was instantly attracted to the romance of broadcasting. I saw how it could draw bridges."

The man who would be Howlin' Dave was born July 16, 1955, the year Elvis would make his big move and make rock 'n roll a household word. David

(continued on page 4)



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The Last of the Singing Cowboys (from page 2)

attended the Malate Catholic School, before moving into the tough neighborhood of Villaroel, Pasay City, just as Beatlemania was about to break.

"My older brother was a member of the Kamikaze street gang," he recalls. "Our sworn enemies were the Amboys. I was a kid, but I was the 'starter'—I would throw the first punch, and if they put up a fight, suddenly dozens of us would come out. But I wasn't really a bad boy. I loved music even then."

The watershed was hearing the Doors for the first time in 1967. "Wow! 'Light My Fire'! Hearing Jim Morrison was like hearing Nirvana for the first time. My whole lifestyle changed."

Much to his parents' chagrin, David dropped out of high school, grew his hair long, and started hanging out in a communal "crash pad" along with the other hippies in Novaliches, where the family had moved by that time. Two years later, he enrolled in Fine Arts at the Philippine Women's University. "My mother was overjoyed. They thought I had finally come to my senses. Then one day they visited the college. *P***ng ina, puro* freaks (freaks all over the place)!"

Martial law had been declared, but the repression focused on the radicals, leaving the local counterculture more or less alone. His schoolmates suggested that David try out for an announcer's slot on DZRJ, "the Rock of Manila," the hip radio station at the time. After a year in limbo, the station finally called him in 1974.

"I got the call from Double A, Alan Austria, who was programming director and RJ's bass player with the original Riots," recalls David. "He was my mentor. I learned a lot from him."

After Austria asked him to make a list of air names, they finally settled on Howlin' Dave (in homage to blues legend Howlin' Wolf).

Not long after, he got his first big break. DZRJ had begun a 30-minute program of local music, and the late Emil "Charlie Brown" Quinto had come up with the name "Pinoy Rock and Rhythm." The name stuck to the original music being played by the Juan de la Cruz Band, Anakbayan and a handful of other local bands, and soon grew into a movement, driven in no small part by DZRJ's championing of the cause. When Bob Magoo left, Howlin' Dave took over the show.

With "happening chick" Delilah Aguilar

"It was very exciting," David recalls. "We would see these bands in concert, record them, and air the music the next day. I started speaking in *Tagalog—syempre, Pinoy, eh*. The rest is history."

David had been a working student, but in between going on the air and running wild on his motorcycle, he didn't have time to go to class. Eventually, he dropped out to concentrate on DJing full time. "Broadcasting became my medium, my palette and brush. I was with that rock 'n roll concept because I believed in it." He even tried his hand at it, jamming onstage with bands like Brother Lion and later, Anakbayan.

But as the Seventies wound down, rock did the unthinkable. It grew old. Tired. Even DZRJ's playlist fell into the blahs: Stevie Nicks, Firefall, the Little River Band, Hall and f***ing Oates. They even started playing fusion jazz.

Out of this miasma of blandness would emerge Howlin' Dave's finest hour. "In the late '70s, I was into Hinduism, black magic, wow, you have to open up, you have to crack the cosmic egg. He's gone mad, people said. But I was willing to submit myself to that experimental stage to save the world. I was getting Messianic."

Little did he know, he would get his chance. He had started dating a happening chick named Delilah Aguilar, who happened to have a direct pipeline to the hottest underground music scene, thanks to a sister in London, and an aristocratic Belgian brother-in-law with a fantastic record collection.

"She told me, 'why don't you play these records on your show? They're great!' She showed me records by the Sex Pistols, Siouxsie and the Banshees, Devo. Lou Reed's 'Transformer,' Roxy Music, the Sex Pistols' 'Never Mind the Bollocks.'"

With radio still pretty loose in those days, David started spinning the hot new vinyl on his show. The reaction was instantaneous. "*Ano yan*! (What the f*ck is that?)"

"Everybody was against me," he recalls. "The station even had me investigated. They thought the music I was playing was too radical. I played Peter Tosh's 'Legalize It'… 'Legalize marijuana!' They freaked out! "

With a few exceptions, the new music alienated most of the other DJs, mellow hippie dudes to the last head.

"Ideological differences," David continues. "We would get into physical fights over it. *'Pare, ang bulok mo, coño!* Sampaguita used to laugh and say I was like Alan Freed. They got him for payola but he fought for rock 'n roll."

The station might have hated it, but David's show, "New Wave Nights," was winning converts and gaining media

(continued on page 14)

Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

Majestic Scene, Adventurous Cuisine

People come here for the sights, not the bites, but surprises still await the courageous gourmand in Guilin, China

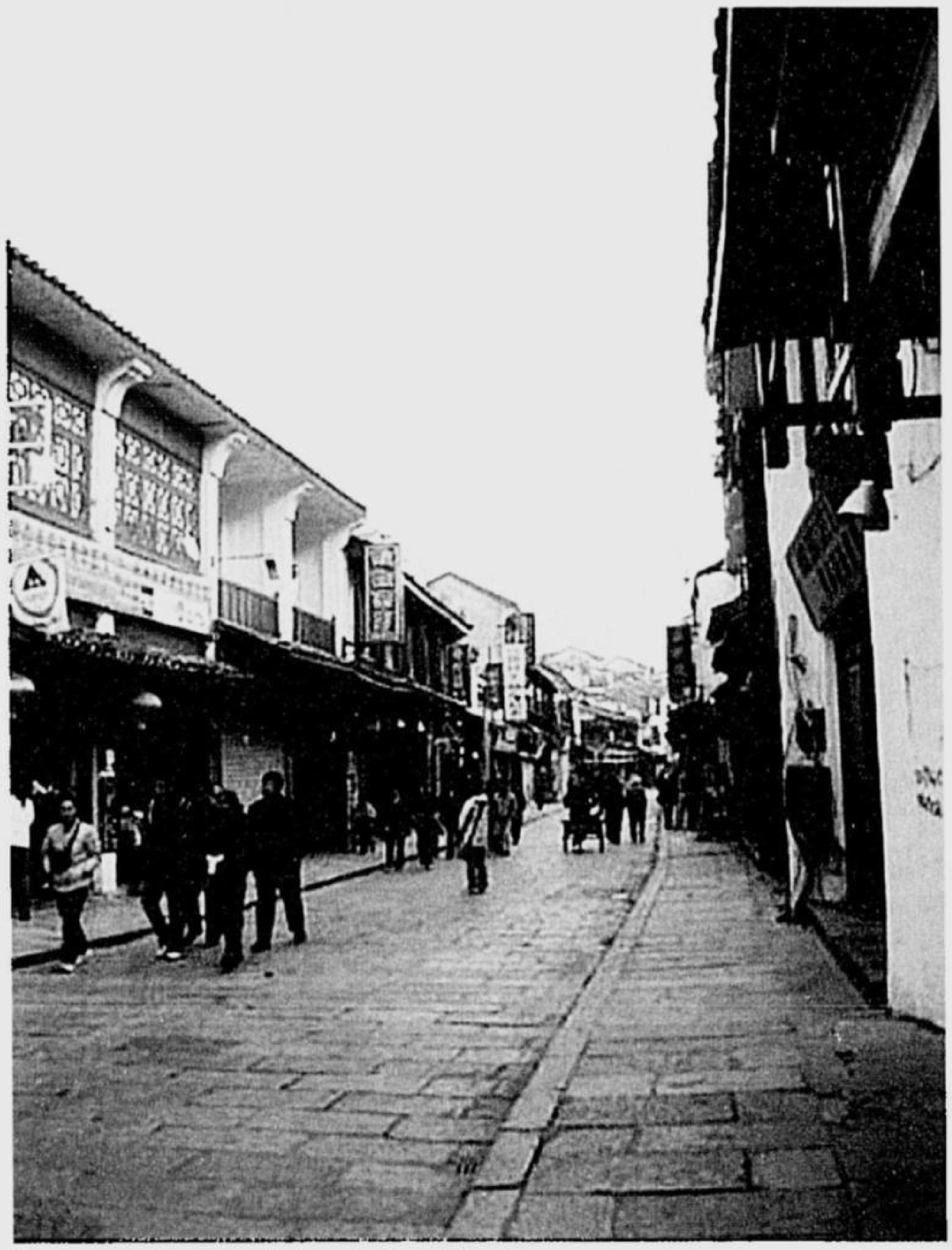
GUILIN (pronounced "guay-lin") is a small city (population 670,000) on the west bank of the Lijiang or Li River. Not many Filipinos have heard of it, but even in winter, the tourist boats in Guilin are full of foreigners seeking a glimpse of the wonders of this paradise on earth. You have to see it for yourself because no camera can capture, and no words can describe, the beauty of this small town. Enchanting and regal while retaining a provincial charm, this Chinese city is where Mother Nature herself finds seclusion. If the gods were to hold a meeting on earth, I predict they would gather in Guilin. And, barring the bustling tourists, if you stood atop its mountains, I can almost guarantee you would hear the Almighty himself.

On each side of the Li River are mountains made of limestone that stand side by side and stretch to the skies. Then there are caves inside these mountains (we visited Ludi Cave) with rock formations—both stalactites and stalagmites—that have developed from over a thousand years ago.

With scenery like this, people obviously do not come for the food. And I would understand why. They have a saying in Guilin that they eat anything with legs save for the kitchen table. And they take it quite literally too: they serve deer, rabbit, pigeon, duck ... as well as rats and dogs! Eww? Yup, eww. Did I try those? Pigeon and duck, yes, but then again I love these delicacies to begin with; bamboo rat and dog ... I passed. I'm not that adventurous.

However, they do have really good street food in a section west of the Li River in a place called Yangshuo. This area has a street called West Street, now commonly known as Foreigners Street or Backpacker Central, probably because of the many shops that have started catering to tourists and the cafes that surprisingly have Internet access. It reminded me of Vigan, actually, with the cobblestone roads and quaint stores. A couple of blocks from West Street, a night market that reminded me of the Salcedo Saturday Market opens at sunset and offers an abundance of really great street food.

My tour friends and I had the freshest dumplings I had ever tasted in my life. You line up for it as the vendor makes it from scratch before your eyes. It's quite a wait, but you will forget time as an amusing singer with a portable music box and mic serenades you for ten yuan. There are also freshwater snails cooked as you watch and a Mongolian-style rice pot where you can choose what stuff to mix in. And, of course, there is Guilin's famous rice noodles, a definite must-try. But my favorite delicacy of all was a simple one: It's called Tea Egg because the egg is stewed in tea (with the shell) to allow the flavor of the tea to seep into the egg. I had never tried tea eggs before and I loved the twist of tea flavoring to an otherwise very plain hard boiled egg.



Backpacker Central: Great street food

For dessert, one of the stalls offered rice cakes which, being a *kakanin*-holic and for only a dollar each, I had to try. Their delicacies are also made from glutinous rice and have an amazing texture and stickiness, but my Filipino taste buds still searched for extra bite and sweetness. Instead, I fancied another sweet delicacy: skewered fruits glazed with syrup. A little overboard on sweet but at that hour a welcome sugar high.

On the way home, you should pick up at least one of their many teas. Their varieties of tea are mind-boggling (I mean, duh, it's China!). An interesting one is the Osmanthus Tea. This is a kind of oolong tea scented with osmanthus, the town flower of Guilin. It has a very light and sweet taste,

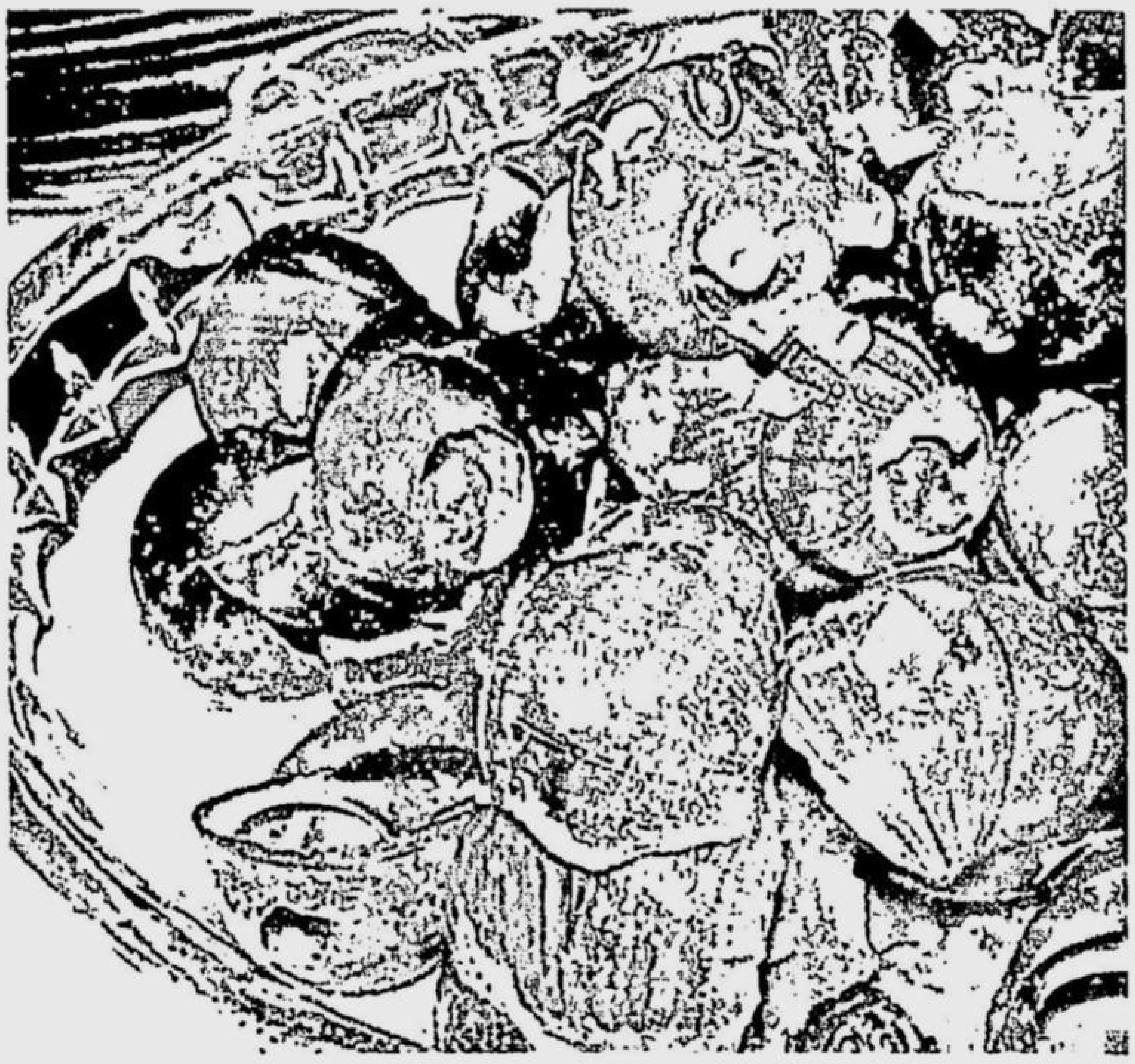
(continued on page 6)

Majestic Scene, Adventurous Cuisine (from page 5)

and a lingering sweet osmanthus scent. If you are not into tea, there is also the Osmanthus Wine, whose alcohol content hits a nasty 36 percent!

For the summer, Guilin would be an ideal visit. Understandably, people come here for the sights, not for the bites. The tour-provided menus, especially, are nothing spectacular. Except for something called Beer Fish, which is simply their local fish cooked sweet and sour style but with a subtle beer flavoring. But if you are smart enough to explore, to check out those little side stalls that common folk go to every morning for noodles, you will not be disappointed; even the food will be a delight! •

For travel arrangements to Guilin via Hong Kong Airlines (www.hkairlines.com), contact Rey Concepcion of Where2Book Travel, 892-6919 or 811-0110.
Visit www.margauxlicious.blogspot.com for more stories on Guilin sights and www.flickr.com/photos/margauxlicious/ for some attempted digital shots.



Freshwater snails cooked as you watch

How to Make the Most of Your Credit Cards

1. Don't buy depreciating items on credit (cell phones, cars, appliances, clothes, shoes, etc.). Buy them in cash; save and wait till such time you can afford them. Settle for items you can only afford. At current market interest, your total payment is almost three times the selling price by the time you finish paying your amortization if you buy on credit, while the market value of your purchased item would have gone down to nearly 50 percent or more of the original price.

2. Beware of marketing promos. There is no such thing as a "0" interest loan amortization. Sellers actually include the interest in your monthly amortization but still advertise it as 6 or 12 months "0" interest. If you want to buy a "0" interest item in cash, you should ask the seller to give you the "interest free" price or tell them to remove the "hidden interest" in exchange for a cash purchase. Or ask for discounts for cash payments.

3. Watch out for "50% off" sales promos, especially for non-perishable items (clothes, shoes, jewelry, watches, appliances etc.) No seller will sell their product below cost unless there is something wrong with it. Usually the sales promo is the "real selling price" of the item, profit included. This is another marketing strategy to induce people to buy, usually on credit.

4. Keep only one credit card and use it for convenience, not for credit. Choose a reliable credit card company that does not go "off-line." If you encounter a malfunctioning "Point of Sale" system, tell the establishment to call the credit card company directly and then ask for approval via phone. As much as possible, always have cash on hand or in your ATM card and use it as your credit card backup.

5. Don't get a gold credit card if you are only after the prestige factor. You will pay twice the membership fee as the regular card just for the perception. And your spending temptation will be twice as powerful as well.

6. Always pay the full amount once you get the bill.

[illegible]

and a lingering sweet osmanthus scent. If you are not into tea, there is also the Osmanthus Wine, whose alcohol content hits a nasty 36 percent!

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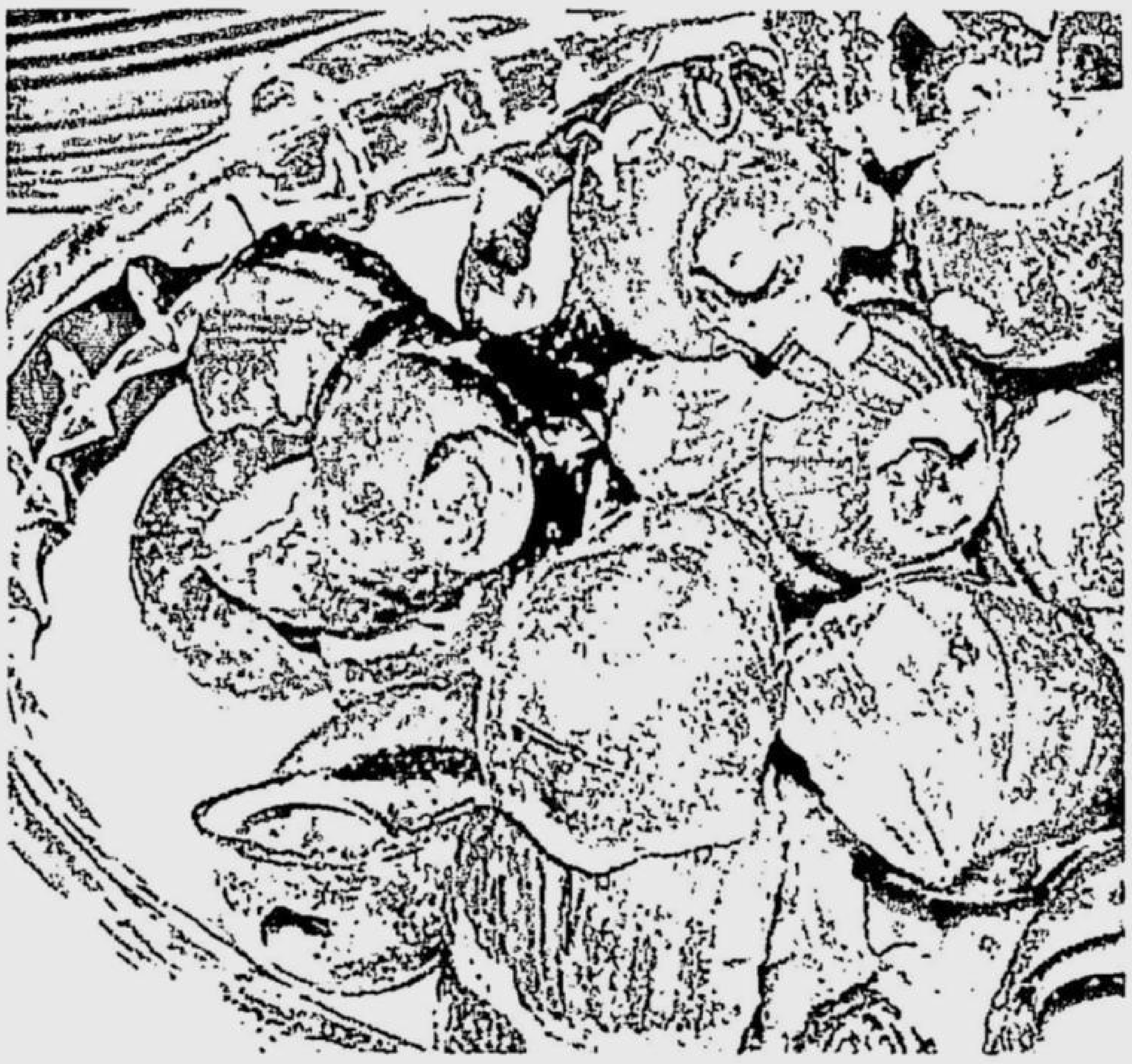
Visit www.margauxlicious.blogspot.com for more stories on Guilin sights and www.flickr.com/photos/margauxlicious/ for some attempted digital shots.


Freshwater snails cooked as you watch

[illegible]

1. Don't buy depreciating items on credit (cell phones, cars, appliances, clothes, shoes, etc.). Buy them in cash; save and wait till such time you can afford them. Settle for items you can only afford. At current market interest, your total payment is almost three times the selling price by the time you finish paying your amortization if you buy on credit, while the market value of your purchased item would have gone down to nearly 50 percent or more of the original price.

2. Beware of marketing promos. There is no such thing as a "0" interest loan amortization. Sellers actually include the interest in your monthly amortization but still advertise it as 6 or 12 months "0" interest. If you want to buy a "0" interest item in cash, you should ask the seller to give you the "interest free" price or tell them to remove the "hidden interest" in exchange for a cash purchase. Or ask for discounts for cash payments.

3. Watch out for "50% off" sales promos, especially for non-perishable items (clothes, shoes, jewelry, watches, appliances etc.) No seller will sell their product below cost unless there is something wrong with it. Usually the sales promo is the "real selling price" of the item, profit included. This is another marketing strategy to induce people to buy, usually on credit.

4. Keep only one credit card and use it for convenience, not for credit. Choose a reliable credit card company that does not go "off-line." If you encounter a malfunctioning "Point of Sale" system, tell the establishment to call the credit card company directly and then ask for approval via phone. As much as possible, always have cash on hand or in your ATM card and use it as your credit card backup.

5. Don't get a gold credit card if you are only after the prestige factor. You will pay twice the membership fee as the regular card just for the perception. And your spending temptation will be twice as powerful as well.

6. Always pay the full amount once you get the bill.

By Ruel S. De Vera

Holding All the Cards

There's a card for every need and every customer. Let an expert tell you why that is

IF you were to hold in your hands all the available credit cards with their suit of colors, patterns and sizes, you could very well, literally and figuratively, choose to hold a game of poker or perhaps engage in a few magic tricks. The day when credit cards came only in silver or gold and were available only to the moneyed class is long gone. Amid the riot of card choices, how do you know you've got the right one in hand?

HSBC's Martin Cook: A card for every lifestyle

Martin Cook has a thing or two to say about that. Cook is Senior Vice President and Head of Personal Financial Services for HSBC and has been the bank's International Manager for more than 15 years in such countries as India, Brazil, Malaysia and the Philippines.

"The Philippines' credit card industry is still very young, and compared to more developed countries, many Filipinos still prefer to use cash for products and services even when a credit card gives them more benefits and sometimes even more savings than cash," he says. Filipinos, he adds, use their credit cards mostly for groceries or food, dining and apparel, in that particular order.

Yet Cook says that a stable economy and a steadily expanding middle class are providing the Philippines with a good window for increasing the number of credit cards available to cardholders. He notes that the estimated credit card penetration among eligible Filipinos stood at 41 percent in 2005, meaning only four out of 10 qualified Filipinos own a credit card. Clearly, he says, the opportunity is there to dream of a credit card for every eligible Filipino.

Educated in England, Cook is an Australian citizen who has been part of credit cards and banking since 1974, when he first joined Diners Club. "And while the range of products and available services have changed dramatically over the years, it is pleasing to note that a credit card today is still in the same shape and size as those sold more than 33 years ago," he points out.

As for the dramatic increase in the variety of available credit cards, put it down to the almost viral expansion in the acceptance of those pieces of plastic. "Consumers are discerning and want a credit card that fits their needs and lifestyle," Cook notes. "With regard to the class of credit card (Classic, Gold and Platinum), this is more linked to credit assignments. The higher the class of credit card you have, the higher your credit limit or spending power. Increasingly, cards are being tailored to specific demographic and psychographic segments."

Cards can also be tailored to fit the client's lifestyle. For one who travels all the time. Cook says that a frequent flier card like their Mabuhay Miles Card would be perfect. "Spend on this card and you accumulate points that you can exchange for free flights on Philippine Airlines," he says.

For those who love to shop, especially women, there are credit cards that have tie-ups with retailers for promos and discounts on clothing, jewelry, shoes and accessories, spa services, etc, like their Red MasterCard, he says.

Then there are cards that offer substantial rebates for everyday necessities like gas. For this, says Cook, the company partnered with Caltex for a card that offers a three percent rebate to cardholders. "No matter which HSBC credit card they use at a Caltex gas station, they get the rebate plus their existing rewards program."

Despite such enticements, Cook says that the local credit card industry has a mighty hurdle to overcome. "The biggest challenge for the credit card industry is to change the mindset of Filipinos that 'cash is king' when in fact

(continued on page 9)

By Leica Carpo

Lilen Uy

Will and Grace

Commercial model Grace Tagle may have the world at her fingertips, but this woman once voted Most Beautiful shows remarkable restraint in wielding the power of plastic. For her, the ultimate reward is reserving that billing charge for a major purchase

"I HAVE never been in debt—my parents taught me well."

This, from Grace Tagle, 29, the current spokesperson for Metrobank's new Femme Credit card. Aside from her spectacular cheekbones, professional work ethic and zero body fat, Grace's "solid credit sense" makes her the perfect image model for the country's leading bank. Grace's modeling career consists of a series of smart decisions made with the opportunities presented her. Considered one of the original "Filipina supermodels," this Quezon native translated her win as a clothing image model into a second career when she realized that being a flight attendant wasn't quite the dream job she expected. Armed only with her portfolio and a "gut feel" that this was something she could do, she signed on with Robbie Carmona, then also starting his fledgling production and modeling agency, and hasn't looked back since.

A delicate wisp of a girl with a no-frills attitude, Grace does not strike you as "supermodel material," until you put her in front of the camera and, like a true pro, she gets down to business to give you the money shots in minutes. The woman who makes it look so effortless earns her top endorsements from the likes of Jewelmer, Rejoice shampoo, Pond's and Sprite, among other products. The camera obviously loves her so it's no surprise that she was voted Most Beautiful by Mega Magazine in 2000, and as a woman of style and substance by Tatler (Philippines) in 2006.

Grace took communication arts in college because she was shy, she says. "I was scared of public speaking and I thought it would help, but even after all these years, I'm still shy inside." Conquering her biggest fear by tackling it head-on is her way of dealing with issues, an attitude she has learned to apply to her modeling career after one of her more difficult shoots. Early on, she recounts, she was asked to pose on the edge of a building 11 storeys high without a safety harness. "After that shoot, where I feared for my life, I've learned to say no and set limitations."

The ability to say no may be every woman's prerogative, but even Grace, with her steely self-discipline, is not immune to shoes. "When I got my first credit card, the first thing I bought was three pairs of shoes in one go—then I treated my friends to lunch. It gave me such a great feeling of satisfaction and independence to be able to spend my own money." Except for that exhilarating first splurge, Grace remains refreshingly grounded and immune to the celebrity and diva syndrome. "I am really a savings, not a shopping, type of person," she confesses. Her first paycheck, she recalls, went to her future home. The thought of buying a fancy car or a "major bling" never even crossed her mind.

These days, not even shoes can distract Grace and new husband Ernest from using their savings mainly on decorating their new home. Her most recent purchase, she says, was a lamp. Like her wardrobe, her furniture choices veer toward classical lines in earth tones with a Zen feel. She is as laidback in planning her next major purchase—the ultimate home item that's worthy of a billing charge from her Metrobank Femme card. •

Holding All The Cards (from page 7)

they get equal if not better value when they use their credit card," he says. "At present, a large number of clients only use their credit cards for emergencies or when they do not have cash available."

Even though the Philippines lags behind its Southeast Asian neighbors such as Malaysia and Thailand, Cook thinks that the Philippines remains fertile ground for the seeds of a thriving credit card paradise. "The idea is for clients to open their wallets and pull out their credit card first whenever they pay for anything. In essence, if you can buy it, then we want you to be able to use a credit card," Cook concludes. •

Femme Fatale

More reasons why the Metrobank Femme Visa is to die for

1. It is accepted in over 23 million establishments worldwide

2. A free three-month subscription to Metro Magazine is automatically activated the first time you use your card.

3. Cardholders can attend quarterly Career Femme sessions that feature outstanding women who share career advice and beauty tips—an excellent venue for networking and building contacts.

4. Reward points can either be redeemed in items from the Femme Rewards Catalog, or converted into air miles from Philippine Airlines, Singapore Airlines or Cathay Pacific.

5. You can win P10,000 worth of shopping credit, or a fab makeover in the monthly promo.

6. Femme Visa's official newsletter keeps you up to date on all the latest fashion, health, and career news, as well as discounts and freebies at your fingertips.

7. You can sign up to four Supplementary Cards with each Principal Card. •

When credit is due

You can run and you can hide, but why bother? Citibank says you can work with your creditor to clean up your credit card debt

Here's how to get started:
1. Call your creditor and tell them you plan to pay your entire debt but need more time to settle it. Present your plan and ask for their cooperation.

2. For the record, send your creditor a letter with the details you've discussed, with some payment if you can, to show you're serious about paying back your debt.

3. Not all creditors will react favorably to your plan but don't get discouraged. Persist. Don't get emotional and be prepared to compromise.

4. Explore your debt reduction options, which usually means rescheduling payments to extend your payment period and allow you to pay in smaller, more manageable sums. But be aware that some creditors might ask you for partial payment or ask you to pay interest or service charges.

5. You might want to look at loan refinancing too, which is basically a new loan with a new payment schedule and a new interest rate.

6. Your other options are the consolidation loan and the home equity loan.

Whatever you choose, know that most creditors are willing to help people who want to get out of debt. That's the surest way they can get paid. •

(usecreditwisely.citibank.com.ph)

By Ruel S. De Vera

What's the Worst that can Happen?

What happens when you can't pay your credit card bill? Some words of caution from two credit card gurus

IT'S always so exciting when that brand-new card, the one you're "pre-selected" for, comes in the mail. But beware: Getting a new credit card isn't an opportunity to spend "free money." That's still your money—you just don't have it yet.

In the right hands, a credit card can be a magnificent instrument for upgrading your lifestyle. But in trigger-happy hands, credit cards offer a really fast track to debt. And that's just the tip of the troubled iceberg. Under the current of demand letters await lawyers, collecting agencies, perhaps even court appearances.

To help the unsuspecting cardholder, Metrobank Card Corporation's Kiwi President Anne Marie Young, and First Vice President for Marketing and Sales, Aloysius "Aloy" Alday, Jr., provide some insights and tips on how to stay out of trouble after maxing out your credit card.

"Just like any other debt, non-payment of your credit card bill makes your financial position tighter," Young explains. "Apart from the penalty charges for late payment, your cash flow gets affected as you have more to pay the following months. So financial management is really important."

Women seem to have kept that in mind, she notes. Based on her experience in portfolio analysis, Young says, "women tend to be more responsible payers."

Interestingly, a rejected card isn't subjected to the indignity of being cut into two in front of the client. "That's just in the movies," Young says. "The moment we cancel the card in our system, the card cannot accept any more transactions."

Lest you think that the system is completely run by machines, Alday says there are two sides to that card. "Although cards run on highly automated systems, human intervention is still necessary. And whenever there's a human factor, there's bound to be some errors. But with checks and balances, occurrences are very minimal."

Metrobank's Anne Young and Aloy Alday: Live within your means

Like Pandora's cashbox left open, a festering debt unleashes all sorts of nasty things. "A cardholder with records of unpaid bills will definitely face difficulty in getting further credit for any purpose, be it for personal credit or for business," Alday says. "It can also lead to legal embroilments." But landing in court is quite a long way off. "Lawyers are always a last recourse," he explains. "Litigation is only done when there are no longer remedies in collection. And this is true not only for the credit card business."

Of course, those with a history of credit card trouble will be stuck with being branded a credit risk. "Again, I ask you, would you lend money to someone who you know is a habitual non-payer and you know is already in deep debt?" Alday asks.

There are different refinancing options for cardholders who acknowledge their debt and are willing to find a solution to it. A quick call to the card's customer hotline (it's usually right there on the back of the card) starts the process.

Alday says errant cardholders "are usually suffering from the loss of a job or tight cash flow usually during school enrollment period."

Then there's the nightmare scenario of

(continued on page 13)

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Even Deadbeats Have Rights

When credit card collectors start harassing you with threatening phone calls, nasty text messages and demand letters, who do you call? The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, for one

THE government website on law and justice reads like a virtual agony column:

Hi, banker! I haven't paid my credit card for six months now and I don't have any work at the moment. An atty. already called me at home, asking me to pay a certain amount or else.... He told me that he'll block my name to all call center companies so I won't able to work. He added that he already spoke with a consul at the US embassy so if I have plans of going abroad, my visa will be denied. He also said that my NBI clearance will be affected because I'm not paying them. Please, please, help me. I need your advice. Can't sleep because of calls I've been receiving from them.

The website is chockfull of similar letters complaining about credit card collectors texting threats at all hours or making calls to the debtors' office to denounce them to their boss and work colleagues. Others are verbally abused on the phone by collection agents who identify themselves as lawyers or sheriffs out to garnish the debtors' paycheck or properties to cover their outstanding balance.

Such collection tactics are not allowed under the rules and guidelines set by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to regulate credit card companies, says Teodora San Pedro, Acting Director of the Office of Supervisory Policy Development. The BSP, she adds, is one of several government agencies that oversee credit card operations in the country, but only if the credit card company is affiliated with banks or quasi-banks. Then there's the Credit Card Association of the Philippines, which monitors the transactions of its member-companies. Aside from collection harassment practices, San Pedro reveals that the BSP frequently receives complaints centered on:

- Excessive charges, both in interests and penalties.
- Unauthorized charges and erroneous billings.
- Non-issuance of clearance certificates for fully paid accounts.
- Imposition of membership fees on unused credit cards.
- Unsound practices regarding credit approval, credit card cancellation and debt restructuring.
- Inaccuracies in computer-generated data that often result in erroneous transaction reports.

The BSP, says San Pedro, has always been at the forefront of consumer protection, a role that could become more prominent as the agency's data indicate that total credit card receivables have been on the uptrend for the past four years—from P47.6 billion as of end-2001 to almost double, or P82.8 billion as of end-2005, an average increase of 15 percent a year. As of end-September 2006, San Pedro notes, the receivables (the amount that cardholders owe credit card companies) have reached P86.5 billion. This may represent less than five percent of the banks' total loan portfolio, but it is almost double the 2.9 percent share in end-2001. This means that Filipinos have been using their credit cards more frequently to meet their basic needs and luxury purchases, and unfortunately, have increasingly been remiss in their payments.

But even delinquent payers have rights, San Pedro says. "These rights have been generally embodied in The Consumer Act of the Philippines (Republic Act No. 7394), which prescribes rules and regulations on consumer credit transactions for the protection of the borrowing public, including credit cardholders. The provisions of this Act are being enforced by the BSP but only if they involve banks and other financial institutions under BSP supervision."

To ensure that bank-affiliated credit card companies do their business "in a safe and sound manner," the BSP issues rules, regulations and guidelines and "conducts on-site examinations of banks to make sure that pertinent banking laws are being complied with," adds the bank official.

The guidelines, San Pedro says, include BSP Circular 454, which "defines what may be considered unfair collection practices such as the use of violence or other criminal means to harm the physical person, reputation or property of any person, the use of obscenities, insults or profane language which amounts to a criminal act or offense under applicable laws, the disclosure of the names of credit cardholders who allegedly refuse to pay debts, except

(continued on page 12)

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

				7				
	1		5		6		2	
4								3
	8		6		3		7	
1								2
	2		9		4		6	
5								9
	3		2		7		4	
				5				

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/04

Answer to previous puzzle

8	2	4	7	9	5	6	3	1
3	1	7	8	6	2	9	5	4
6	5	9	4	3	1	8	7	2
4	8	5	1	2	3	7	6	9
9	6	1	5	7	8	2	4	3
7	3	2	9	4	6	5	1	8
2	4	6	3	8	7	1	9	5
1	7	3	2	5	9	4	8	6
5	9	8	6	1	4	3	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Even Deadbeats Have Rights (from page 11)

as allowed under existing regulations, and so on."

Interestingly, the circular also prohibits the use of false representation or deceptive means to collect the debt or to obtain information about the cardholder, and defines as well what may be considered unreasonable or inconvenient hours for collection. Collectors, warns this circular, cannot call "before 6 a.m. or after 10 p.m. ... unless the cardholder has given express permission that said times are the only reasonable or convenient opportunities for contact."

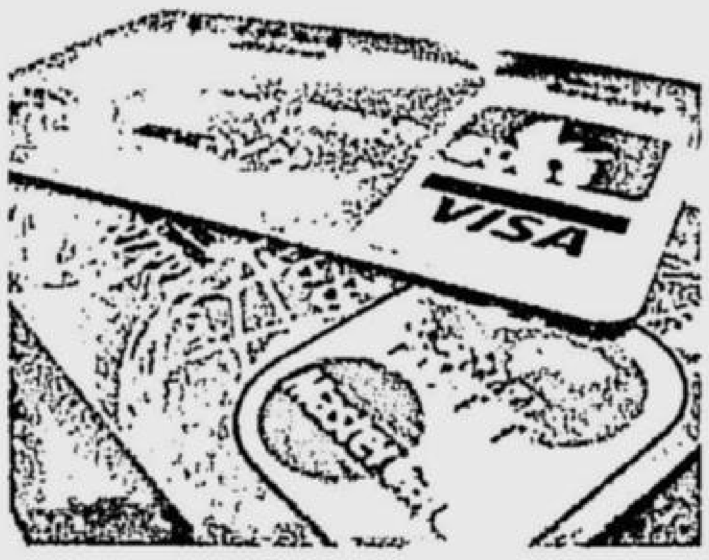
The BSP has also issued Circular No. 398 that provides better transparency to cardholders, San Pedro reveals. The circular prescribes "minimum disclosure requirements especially of finance charges and their methods of computation, the effective interest rate, and other fees and charges for issuing credit cards, while respecting confidentiality of credit information." Guidelines for the collection of delinquency charges, the criteria for suspension, termination and reactivation of credit cards, and procedures for handling customer complaints should also be provided to cardholders under this circular, the BSP official adds.

San Pedro says that any violation of credit card guidelines can result in penalties, such as the disqualification of the bank concerned from the credit facilities of the BSP.

To report anomalous credit card transactions, cardholders are first encouraged to settle their complaint with the bank or its subsidiary credit card company. "In some instances, the problem can already be addressed and resolved at this level," notes San Pedro. "However, if at this stage the problem has not been resolved, then the BSP can lend its assistance and facilitate resolution, if and when deemed necessary."

For complaints on bank-affiliated credit cards, cardholders can call Ms. Joy Lorico of BSP's Consumer Affairs Unit at 524-7011 loc. 2584. •

Figure It Out



5.5 million: Estimated number of credit card holders in the Philippines as of 2006

2 million to 2.5 M : Estimated number of credit card holders in the Philippines as of 1997

P200 billion: Total worth of credit card transactions in the Philippines in 2005
1.3 billion: Number of credit cards in circulation in the United States as of 2004

$2.2 trillion: Total US consumer debt in 2005, mostly from credit card transactions

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

13 More Ways to Avoid Credit Card Fraud

THERE'S one born every minute, P.T. Barnum of the Barnum and Bailey Circus once said of suckers. The same might be said of scams, now that the Net has made face-to-face contact superfluous. The anonymity provided by electronic banking has provided fraudsters with new tricks to skim money from the innocent, the trusting and the greedy.

Here are some ways to protect your money and avoid being another crime statistic.

1. If you use your credit card regularly to buy items online, beware of phishing, which uses the e-mail to get sensitive information from you in the guise of verifying your account or your purchase. The message masquerades as an official communication from a reputable company, right down to the forged sender's e-mail address. It capitalizes on your trust of a respected brand by enticing you to click a link that will take to an equally convincing—but equally fake—Web page or pop-up window set up to imitate legit business.
Once there, you are asked to divulge personal information that can put your identity, your money and credit rating at risk. Some messages even express "concern" for their clients whose accounts, the message claims, could get suspended or deactivated unless they verify their identity by clicking the link provided.

2. PayPal, a recent victim, has warned: "These e-mails generally contain links. DO NOT click any of those links. If you do, delete all your cookies, temp Internet files, and run a virus scan. If you have spyware software, run a trojan scan. If you have received an e-mail of this sort, forward it directly to: spoof@ebay.com or spoof@paypal.com "

3. Beware of the five warning signs of phishing:

- Requests for personal information in an e-mail message. Most legitimate businesses will not ask for personal information in e-mail.

- Alarmist messages. Criminals attempt to create a sense of urgency so you'll respond without thinking.

- Misspellings and grammatical errors

- A slightly altered Web address. Only close scrutiny would reveal the deceptive spelling. For example, www.microsoft.com could appear as www.micosoft.com or www.mircosoft.com, etc.

- If an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

4. If you lose your card, report the loss immediately. Most thieves use stolen credit cards within 48 hours. (For Citibank Cardholders, in case of loss, call 995-9999 in Metro Manila and press 3 to report the incident).

Follow up your call with a letter giving your account number, the date the card went missing and when you called in the report.

5. Keep your credit safe. Be careful about how and when you use your credit cards. Never lend them to anyone, don't give your numbers to anybody and never leave your cards or receipts lying around, no matter where you live.

6. Don't give your account number over the phone unless you know the company and you made the call.

7. Get a card that has added security features, like a photo.

8. Draw a line through the blank space above the total on charge slips to prevent changes and tear up carbons from slips.

9. Don't sign blank charge slips.

10. Always check receipts against your monthly statements. Errors must be reported within 20 days of the statement date.

11. Record card numbers, expiration dates and phone numbers. Keep this record in a safe place separate from your cards. Use it if you need to report lost or stolen cards.

12. Never put your account number or personal identification number (PIN) on the card or in your wallet.

13. Carry only the cards you need, especially when traveling.

For more tips on credit card safety, log on to usecreditwisely.citibank.com.ph. •

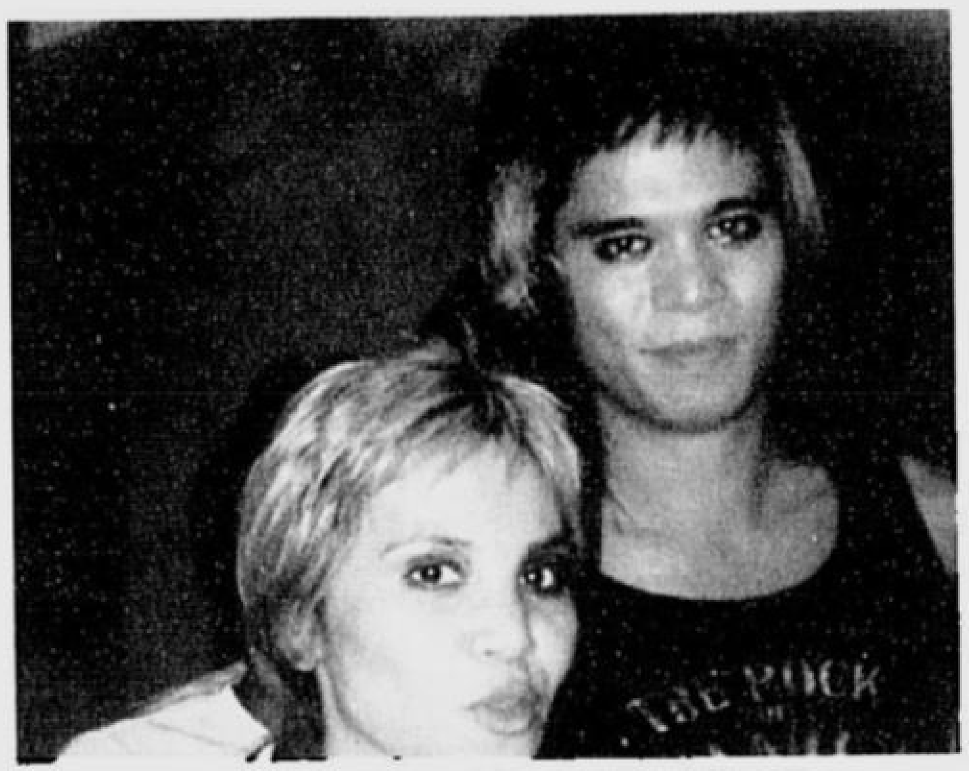
What's the Worst that can Happen? (from page 10)

having your credit card stolen. In such a case, immediate action is required. "The lost card has to be reported immediately," Alday says, so that the card company can put a hold on the card. "The plastic's safety is the responsibility of the cardholder. It is a payment vehicle like cash so if you lose your cash, you know what happens."

Meanwhile, to avoid the hassle of unexplained charges, Alday suggests that cardholders read the terms and conditions that go with the cards even before they make the first transaction.

In the end, it's all in your hands. The card is only as good—or as bad—as the hand that holds it. Anne Young cannot say it often enough: "It's trite but it's key: along with your card comes financial responsibility. As mothers would always say, live within your means." •

The Last of the Singing Cowboys (from page 4)



"Our very own Sid and Nancy" of the Sex Pistols

attention. "Yes, he was the guy who broke punk on radio, largely because of Delilah's influence," recalls Ces Rodriguez, former managing editor of Jingle Magazine. "Dante used to wax profound over stuff. We rolled our eyes but we loved him in spite/because of it."

The hostility hiked up several notches when all these spiky-haired high school kids started showing up at the station, drinking gin and breaking bottles. (Among them was a certain Arnold Morales who later formed the Urban Bandits.) When the young punks broke the broadcast booth's window, David had to take the fall, a year's exile doing penance at a Baguio radio station.

When he returned, the local hard-core punk scene was in full swing, and he and Delilah were hailed as our very own Sid and Nancy. "They were a love team only in the sense that they were highly visible in many events, plus they looked obviously flash," recalls Rodriguez. "They had their dramas, but not on the pathetic scale of Sid and Nancy. Delilah was my idol when it came to the clothes she wore. I remember a Vivienne Westwood jacket she got from her sister which had molded miniature penises as buttons."

For his part, Howlin' Dave took to bleaching his hair and sporting eyeliner—this when Raimund Marasigan of Sandwich was still wearing short pants. Later he would have a dragon and tiger tattooed on his arms. "There was this entrepreneur named Tommy Tanchangco who had On Disco," David recalls. "I convinced him, '*pare*, this is the new sound!' We started a new wave night on Fridays."

The scene grew by leaps and bounds. Kids started spiking their hair with gel, egg white and god knows what else, sporting combat boots and acid washed jeans, and slam dancing to the emerging new bands. Tanchangco formed his own band, Chaos, and his own record label, Twisted Red Cross, releasing home-brewed cassettes by the likes of the Urban Bandits, George Imbecile and the Idiots, I.O.V., the Wuds, which Howlin' Dave would play on "Pinoy Rock and Rhythm," giving the old format a shot of adrenaline.

Between 1980 and 1985, Howlin' Dave hosted the annual Brave New World punk concert, whose influence still reverberates in the current music scene. Often, he would close the show by singing "My Way"—the Sid Vicious version, naturally.

But like all good things, it had to end. The Edsa revolt and the end of Marcos also signaled the end of an era. With its Main Man back from exile, DZRJ reformatted itself into an oldies station, and for the rest of the '80s, Howlin' Dave was just another rock jock.

In the late '80s, David woke up one fine morning and promptly fell down the stairs, landing on his skull. He got up with a huge lump on his head, seemingly none the worse for it. But three months later, he started feeling strange. One day, in Baguio, he broke out in a sweat and his spoon and fork kept slipping from his hands. People naturally thought he was on drugs. A CT scan revealed otherwise: there was a huge brain tumor in his cerebellum.

Still, it took another year and a half before David submitted to surgery. The following year, as the '90s began, the tumor grew back, and since surgery was no longer an option, David had to endure five months of daily radiation therapy. "I went through hell, man," he says. "But I'm lucky I'm still alive."

The advent of the new millennium, however, saw him doing the unthinkable: leaving radio. "For six or seven years, I was just home, basically a bum," he admits. "I was sick most of the time—I developed diabetes, then pneumonia, then hypertension. *Talagang* karma—nature getting back at me for every bad thing I did in the past. I was always in bed, and when friends saw me I always looked different—either I'd be very thin or I'd be fat." He'd still host the occasional concert and do voice recording, but somehow, the spark had gone out.

Until last year, however, when listeners tuning in to a new AM (!) station called Rock 990 heard a familiar voice waxing profound in kilometric spiels over Leonard Cohen or Bob Dylan. Somehow, the upstart station managed to resurrect some legendary names from the glory days of rock radio: Sleepy John, Bob Magoo, the Mole, Barbara, and—back from the grave—Howlin' Dave.

Of course, times had changed. Rock radio was now a "retro" format, and playing "classic rock" amounts to being an oldies station. Still, a lot of the old listeners started crawling out of the woodwork where they had been patiently biding their time. A lot of them tuned in on their computers now, the station having a Web radio broadcast.

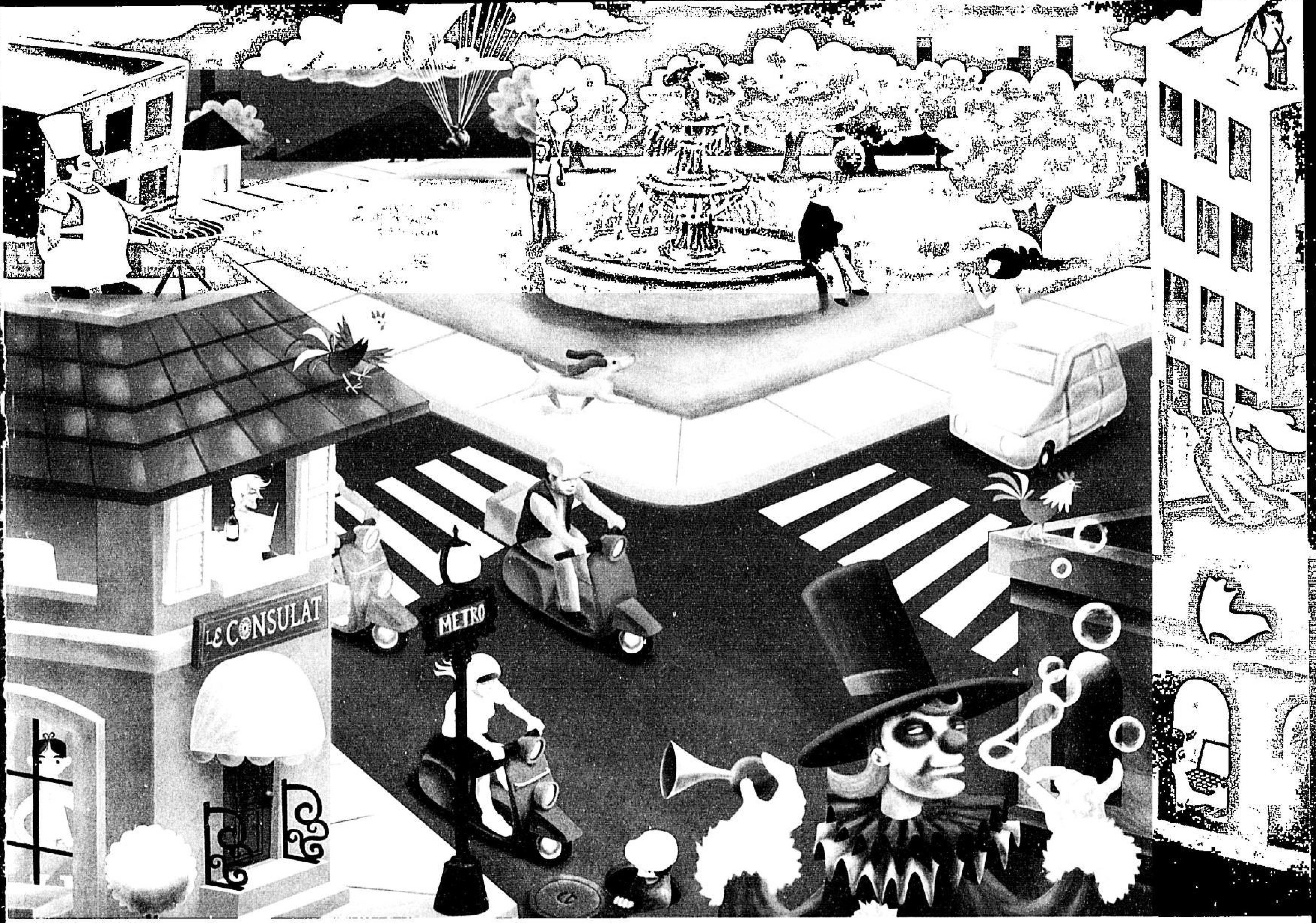
"It was like a renaissance," says David. "All the while they've been conforming until Rock 990 came along and they got their identity back and came out of the shadows."

It's just too bad that Rock 990 had to shut down after five months, temporarily, David hopes. "I'm trying to be well, hoping that the world won't end next week," he says. "I want to go back to broadcasting and turn on more people. With Rock 990, I realized that a lot of people, high school students, were listening. People from future generations are willing to listen because they have no heroes. They don't have an Elvis Presley, or a Beatles, or a Led Zeppelin. There are people who are waiting for something to happen."

Howlin' Dave hopes he'll be around when it does.

So do we. Fellow disc jockey Barbara "November 27" Balce paid him perhaps the best tribute of all: "Howlin' Dave? He's the last of the singing cowboys." •

The "romance" of broadcasting: David and Delilah



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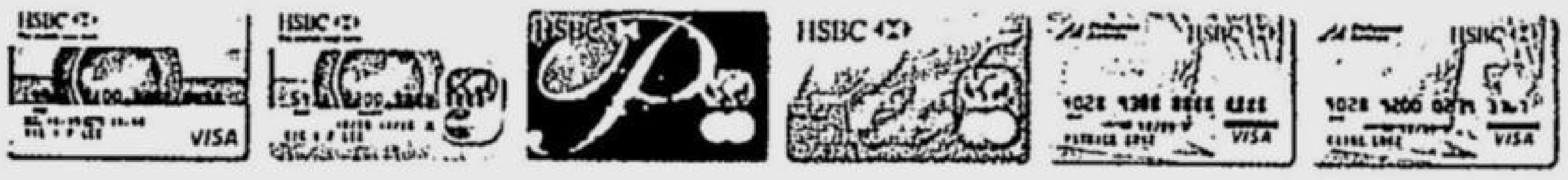

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